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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For February 3, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, Feb. 3 -

WORLD FOOD SURVEY SHOWS WHERE AID STILL IS NEEDED—WAR'S HUNGER AFTERMATH HITTING HARDEST AT CHINA, GREECE, HUNGARY, ITALY, POLAND, YUGOSLAVIA—END OF UNRRA A BLOW—With famine already on the march in China and the food supply in Britain more limited than it was during the U-boat campaign, Europe and Asia are paying the price for the most destructive war in history.

Reports from correspondents of The New York Times in twenty countries demonstrate that, whatever improvement may have been expected a year ago, the hunger of both victors and vanquished requires help from more fortunate countries to prevent a series of catastrophes.

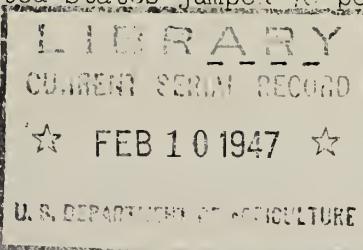
The end of the UNRRA presages particularly hard times for Austria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Yugoslavia and, above all, China. A special United Nations committee estimated last week that the six European countries mentioned would need \$583,000,000 in outside help to supply food and other basic essentials. The reports from The Times' correspondents in these countries bear out this finding.

HOOVER OFF BY AIR ON EUROPE MISSION—Former President Herbert Hoover left yesterday for Europe on his third post-war food mission, appointed by President Truman to seek some way of enabling Germans and Austrians in the western zones of occupation to feed themselves and reduce the cost to American taxpayers.

FAO OUTLINES BASIS OF FARMING CENSUS—Washington—The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has submitted to the Governments of the world a list of basic items designed to serve as the starting point for a 1950 world census of agriculture.

In making this announcement today, the FAO said it hoped that all countries would try to obtain information in comparable form. The information sought includes data on acreage and production of commodities of world wide importance, tenure and major land classifications.

U.S. COST OF LIVING UP 48% SINCE 1937; ILO PUTS FOOD-PRICE INCREASE AT 78%—Montreal—(Canadian Press)—The cost of living in the United States was 48 percent higher at the end of November, 1946, than in 1937, the International Labor Office said today in a survey of seventeen nations. The ILO said that food prices in the United States jumped 78 percent in that period.



Farm Digest 225-47

From New York Times, Feb. 3 -

LOW-INCOME FAMILIES' FOOD COSTS DOWN BY 7½% SINCE SEPTEMBER, SURVEY FINDS-  
For the first time since before the war food costs for a low-income family of five in New York have declined, according to a city wide survey by the New York Budget Council, released yesterday. The decline amounts to 7½ percent since last September, due mainly to the wider availability of low-cost foods that were either scarce or nonexistent a few months ago. The situation, the council emphasized, does not apply to higher-income groups.

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From New York Journal of Commerce, Feb. 3 -

SUGAR ALLOTMENTS-Sugar men see slight prospect of the House Food Committee's proposal for an allotment of 7,200,000 tons of sugar for the domestic market being acted upon favorably by the International Emergency Food Council. If the request of United States officials for 6,800,000 tons is approved, these observers believe we will do well.

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WORLD CITRUS CROP-Productions of citrus fruits for 1946-47 is estimated at 338,000,000 boxes, 10 percent above last year and 27 percent greater than the prewar average, due largely to anticipated record outturn of oranges and grapefruit in the United States, OFA reports.

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From Wall Street Journal, Feb. 3 -

INDUSTRY GROUP URGES SUGAR CONTROLS BE CONTINUED-Salt Lake City-Continuation of sugar controls under the Secretary of Agriculture as a temporary measure was urged by the American Sugar Beet Industry policy committee in a statement, "Substantial increases" in the 1947 sugar ration to housewives, was also urged.

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From The Baltimore Sun, Feb. 3 -

FARMERS ASKED TO MAKE CHANGES IN PRODUCTION-To meet changing needs for crops and livestock, Maryland farmers have been asked to make certain changes in their acreage and production plans according to Joseph H. Blandford, director of the State Production and Marketing Administration at the University of Maryland.

More beef and pork and less poultry are among the goals for the coming year announced by the United States Department of Agriculture council, he said. The number of milk cows is expected to be about the same as in 1946, Mr. Blandford added, and no further increase in broiler production is recommended for 1947.

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From Boise (Idaho) Statesman, Jan. 25 -

SURPLUS POTATOES - Editorial - The news that the Agriculture Department is authorizing farmers to dump all low-grade and deteriorating potatoes stored under government price supporting loans is both good and bad.

It is good news, in a short-sighted sense, for the farmers who will realize payment for a crop that was never moved.

But it is bad news in the long run, and should be a portentous omen for many an Idahoan. For its means that 45,000,000 bushels of potatoes are surplus, and are going to cost the government, which is to say all of us, some \$80,000,000 in cash paid out to farmers whose potato prices the government had agreed to support whether there was a demand for their product or not.

Obviously, the government cannot long go on paying something for nothing, as it is about to with the \$80,000,000 potato handout. After another surplus year or two, the priming will cease and the pump will run dry. Along about then it will be the smart Idaho farmer who has seen the light and diversified his crops in order that a potato surplus, not subsidized by the government, may not catch him with all his spuds in one basket.

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From Chicago News, Jan. 24 -

CHICAGO'S SUGAR - Editorial - Congress will have to authorize the extension of sugar rationing before the Second War Powers Act expires March 31 if we are to be spared a speculative orgy that will hike prices and snatch sugar off our dinner tables.

This is the reasoned view of leading sugar dealers in Chicago. They know what they are talking about. They would like to see controls taken off if it were possible. But they remember the ruinous price boom and bust of 1920-21 and shake their heads.

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From Detroit (Mich.) News, Jan. 25 -

THIS TO CONTINUE? - Editorial - Republican courage in Congress in bringing about Government economies will be tested by the action the GOP majorities take on withdrawing or continuing New Deal benefits to farmers.

The present potato situation emphasizes a situation into which a great deal more, involving other costs, enters.

The Department of Agriculture is out with the announcement that farmers are to dump as waste 20,000,000 bushels of potatoes, taking the Government guarantee of 90 per cent of the parity price -- a loss to Uncle Sam of \$80,000,000.

The GOP economizers will miss a rich chance if they fail to overhaul thoroughly the system under which, all told, billions have been spent in subsidizing practically every sort of farming.

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From St. Paul (Minn.) Dispatch, Jan. 23 -

MASTERY OF MACHINES - Editorial - With American agriculture, the problem is more than one of mere mastery of the machines we have created. Secretary of Agriculture Anderson said recently that the greatly expanded wartime farm production gained through machinery and improved techniques, despite what seemed a crippling manpower shortage, should be continued. His plea was for the keying of marketing and distribution to the mass production tempo that has marked the past few years. The alternative, he said, is curtailment -- the "economy of scarcity" -- or staggering government subsidies. Despite nostalgia about the "good old days," no one wants to stop the wheels of progress.

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From Hutchinson (Kan.) Herald-News, Jan. 26 -

THE WHEAT ERA - Editorial - It's fun on the wheat market these days, and if you have a bushel of grain to sell, it's an unending riot.

The department of agriculture has gone clean off its nut and decided to garner 428 million bushels by March 31 -- all of this to go overseas (if they can get the ships, which right now it looks like they can't) where it will bump smack into the European harvest and will find the bottom of the market more like a sieve than a pedestal.

The Commodity Credit Corporation also is acting like a genial old fellow who is bored with giving dimes to the newsboys and has decided to make it dollars instead. They bought Santa alone knows how many million bushels this month at a rock price of \$2.09 a bushel, but there's hardly a wheat taster between here and LaJunta, Colo., who wouldn't have guaranteed you almost as much wheat at a dime less, if the CCCers just hadn't been so anxious. And, after all, what did they have to lose? It wasn't their money, but something left over from the 79th Congress.

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From Portland (Me.) Press Herald, Jan. 28 -

BUTTER SCANDAL - Editorial - A court has found that the Dairymen's League over in New York is guilty as sin of manipulating the price of butter late last year in order to maintain a high price for milk; so the judge fired the League \$25,000, and each of four individual defendants \$1,000. The law emerges triumphant. A victory for the Government and the people, no less. But the Dairymen's League, it has been reported, made a cool half million dollars cut of the criminal manipulation of the butter market. It can afford to pay a total of \$29,000 to get this profit for its members. To get real justice in this case, as in others, the court would have to assess fines that would take away all the gains from the transactions complained of, and then slap on a punitive fine on top of all.

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From Hartford (Conn.) Courant, Jan. 27 -

FARM LEGISLATION - Editorial - In his appearance before the House and Senate Agriculture committees, Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson was eloquent in describing the pitfalls of the present policy of supporting farm prices. He even dramatized his remarks by following his testimony with an order that the potato market be cleared by dumping 20,000,000 bushels of low-grade or deteriorating potatoes, and by turning into non-commercial channels 25,000,000 bushels more of inferior grade potatoes. The Secretary was emphatic in his suggestions as to the weaknesses of the program he administers under the Steagall Act, and, by no means was he silent when it came to proposing remedies. But by and large, as should be expected, Mr. Anderson put the Republican Congress on its own after warning it of the dangers ahead.

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FEDERAL RECORDS  
AGRICULTURE

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, Feb. 4 -

RENEWED POWERS ASKED BY TRUMAN-Washington-President Truman asked Congress today to extend for another year some of his war powers in the interest of "the effective completion of reconversion." The extended authority would cover a limited list of foods, including sugar, grain, rice and fats and oils, allocation of freight cars and regulation of a few imports and exports.

The President asked for immediate and favorable consideration of his proposals on the ground that "it is unsettling, both for business and for the general public, to be obliged to wait until the last possible moment for decision by the Congress on emergency legislation."

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ASKS HOUSE PUT STOP TO 'GIVE AWAY' PACTS-Washington-Representative Bertrand W. Gearhart, Republican of California, declared today that the reciprocal trade treaties were "give away agreements" and asked that Congress investigate the whole program in the light of the coming eighteen-nation conference for furtherance of such agreements.

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DEFERS WORLD SUGAR TALK: INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL WILL SET QUOTAS LATER IN WEEK-Washington-The meeting of the sugar committee of the International Emergency Food Council, which was to have reconvened today to decide on sugar allocations for the world for 1947, was postponed until later in the week.

Last week the Council voted to ask all nations to review their requirements on articles in shortest world supply, including sugar.

However, increased instead of decreased demands by the United States, greatest sugar user, were indicated in a report by a food study subcommittee of the House Agricultural Committee which declared for an increase for the consumer from the 1946 twenty-five pound ration to thirty-five or forty pounds and for the industrial user from 60 percent to 80 percent.

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BUTTER RISES  $4\frac{1}{2}$ C AS SUPPLY DROPS-Butter prices went up  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cents a pound at wholesale yesterday, foreshadowing a similar rise today in most retail stores in this city.

The price increase was regarded by trade sources as temporary. Louis F. Champlin, marketing specialist for the United States Department of Agriculture, laid the rise to recent blizzards in Midwest dairy areas and a heavy increase in the use of butter by New Yorkers in the last few weeks.

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From New York Times, Feb. 4 -

ROUGH COTTON IMPORT LIMITED BY TRUMAN-Washington-A proclamation limiting imports into the United States of harsh, or rough, cotton of less than three-quarter-inch staple to 70,000,000 pounds a year was issued by President Truman today. The quota will apply to the year ending Sept. 19, 1947 and each subsequent year ending on Sept. 19.

The action was taken, the proclamation declared, as a result of investigation by the Tariff Commission, "in order that the entry of such cotton will not tend to render ineffective the programs undertaken with respect to cotton" under current national agricultural policy.

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(DUMPING POTATOES-The New York Times carries a picture showing "Dumping Surplus Potatoes in North Dakota" and the cut lines state "The Product of the Red River Valley, ordered disposed of by the Federal Government, is spread over a field near Grand Forks for fertilizer." There are potatoes as far as one can see, and a big truck is shown dumping a new load.)

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From the New York Journal of Commerce, Feb. 4 -

BUTLER ASKS SENATE FERTILIZER PROBE-Washington-Senator Hugh Butler, (Rep. Nebr.) today asked the Senate to authorize a full scale investigation of the fertilizer situation by its Agricultural Committee.

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From Wall Street Journal, Feb. 4 -

SUBSIDIZED EXPORTS may become import in farm price support plans.

If the Government is forced to buy large quantities of agricultural staples to keep prices from sagging below 90% of parity it may seek to unload these holdings on foreign buyers at bargain prices.

Last week the Agriculture Department announced it would buy frozen eggs to bolster the egg market. Officials hope these can be sold later to the British. But if John Bull doesn't take them, other customers will have to be sought. And as most nations are short on dollars, they will likely have to be coaxed to buy with cut-rate prices.

Government support buying of dry milk powder, and possibly other milk products, may follow the egg pattern this spring. Here, too, subsidies may be necessary on overseas selling.

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CANE RAISERS in Louisiana use chemical weed killers to produce more sugar. The pestiferous "alligator" weed, which has long plagued the sugar cane patches, has been found to shrivel under the chemical attack. The sugar cane plant itself is apparently unharmed by the weed killer.

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From Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, Jan. 29 -

CAR LACK PERILS GRAIN FARMERS, GTA AID SAYS - Grain farmers will lose 30 cents a bushel on their wheat if the boxcar shortage continues another four months, E. J. Barry, Farmers Union Grain Terminal association representative, said Tuesday.

Eastern railroads were charged with a large part of the blame in Barry's report, filed with the senate subcommittee which opened investigation of the boxcar shortage Tuesday in Washington.

Eastern lines are holding a large percentage of boxcars owned by western lines, blocking country elevators, he said. If the grain is held off the market until June or July when it will have to compete with new crop varieties, millions of dollars will be lost, Barry asserted.

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From Philadelphia Record, Feb. 1 -

DEALERS IN OLEO MAY GET REFUNDS; STATE SUPREME COURT RULING OPENS WAY FOR RETURN OF \$2,000,000 - A decision by the State Supreme Court invalidating license fees charged dealers in oleomargarine in Pennsylvania has opened the way for possible refund of \$2,000,000 collected from dealers in the last five years.

The high court in a decision handed down here Thursday, held that the fees of \$500 for wholesalers and \$100 for retailers are "arbitrary, unreasonable, unconstitutional and void." They have been in effect for 46 years.

The State Board of Finance and Revenue, an agency of the Treasury and Revenue Departments, ruled the dealers are eligible for refunds.

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From Denver (Colo.) Post, Jan. 28 -

OFFICIALS MUM ON CLAIMS OF BEET GROWERS - Washington - Agriculture Department officials declined Tuesday to commit themselves on the question of compensating sugar beet growers for losses on labor contracts with Mexican nationals last fall when severe snowstorms impeded the harvesting of crops in the Rocky Mountain Empire.

Earlier, department experts declared they would favor reimbursing the growers for actual salaries paid the beet workers but they were dubious about the possibility of meeting subsistence payments. This, they argued, would create a precedent which might be costly.

The agriculture officials said they expected to deliver their final opinion soon after they received a copy of the measure which Representative J. Edgar Chenoweth introduced in the house Monday. This measure calls for the reimbursement of growers both for subsistence and salary payments.

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From the Wheeling (W.Va.) Intelligencer, Jan. 29. -

FARM SURPLUSES - Editorial - Among other hang-over problems from war now pressing for congressional solution is that of farm surpluses. In order to encourage American farmers to prodigious production efforts for food for both Americans and their allies, Congress obligated the Government to support at 90 percent of parity, the price of certain basic food crops during the period of hostilities "and for two years thereafter." Certainly at the very least this experience should be a warning to the Government to get out of the crop control and price control business altogether when the present period of obligation has ended.

From Madison (Wisc.) Capital Times, Jan. 28 -

WHO'S BEHIND THE MOVE TO DECONTROL SUGAR? - Editorial - The state senate has adopted and sent to the assembly a resolution memorializing congress to lift all controls on sugar. This is in keeping with the Republican drive to wreck sugar controls was seen in this state. The state senate had hardly got down to business when Sen. Warren Knowles, the Republican floorleader, offered a resolution asking Congress to wipe them out. The Republican majority, serving the same special interest groups that Republicans served nationally when they gutted the whole price control program, hammered the resolution through the senate.

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From Grand Rapids (Mich.) Herald, Jan. 28 -

PAY-OFF ON 'PLANNING' - Editorial - The situation of Michigan farmers, who with their eyes on the market and their feet on the ground, produced in 1946 just about the right number of potatoes to supply nearby consumers, offers a striking contrast to the Federal "planning" which nationally is resulting in the dumping of some 20,000,000 bushels of surplus potatoes.

Only now is the Government waking up to the fallacy of encouraging a crop grown to a price guarantee without a production limit. Washington faces are very red. An over-production of 100,000,000 bushels and a cost of \$80,000,000 in price-support expenditures cannot be laughed off.

Secretary of Agriculture Anderson now is telling Congress what should have been done and what will have to be done if his Department is to carry out the statutory guarantee of 90 per cent of parity in most farm prices. He will need to have the power to control production in vital lines, including potatoes, as has been done in the old-line "basic" crops.

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From Indianapolis (Ind.) News, Jan. 27 -

POTATO ECONOMICS - Editorial - Many Americans must have gasped when they learned that the country is going to chuck some 20,000,000 bushels of potatoes into the dump. The move appears to be a foolish waste of one of the world's best food staples. And, in a way, it is foolish; but it has to be done.

The war is the reason for the potato surplus. In order to stimulate food production, the government promised farmers to keep the price of their products up for the duration and two years thereafter. It was a fair deal, for the farmer was forced to work long hours and to make out with poor equipment and to give up his soil conservation program. The country drew on his future and it was only fair to see him through.

The experience shows why both farmers and businessmen hope that the farm economy of the country will soon be freed of subsidy support and established on a supply-and-demand foundation.

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SPECIAL RECORD

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From New York Journal of Commerce, Feb. 5 -

MEAT, DAIRY PRICES UP ON WESTERN COLD WAVE-Zero weather and storms in the west and northwest are pushing dairy and meat prices up rapidly by delaying food shipments to major marketing centers.

During the past week, butter prices have gone up about  $8\frac{1}{2}$ c a pound at the principal wholesale markets, eggs have risen about 1c, beef \$1 and pork shoulders \$2 a hundred pounds, and hogs about 50c a hundred weight.

These advances have not yet been fully reflected in retail prices. Trade sources say that it will take at least a few weeks after the bad weather spell is over before normal supply conditions will be established.

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SUGAR CONTROL EXTENSION SEEN-Sugar industry executives are fairly certain that following President Truman's request Congress will continue rationing controls on sugar, at least to the year-end.

The opposition to controls by beet sugar interests has subsided and the cane growers in Louisiana and other areas for the most part favor continuation of controls.

In view of the decision due by the courts on a pending case which could upset the sugar rationing program, it is believed that Congress will act soon and clarify the present law to prevent the possibility of elimination of controls by court action.

Sugar, meanwhile, continues in light demand, with supplies more than ample to meet the ration evidence becoming available.

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RICE CONTROLS-The Department of Agriculture is backing the President's request of continued power to allocate scarce foods, particularly rice, but indicates that, with the decrease in UNRRA operations, some change in set asides might be forthcoming.

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BLACKSTRAP SPURTS-Blackstrap molasses has spurted to 30c a gallon f.o.b. New Orleans. Through "ion exchange" manufacturers are using the blackstrap to make a "water white" edible syrup.

The demand is heavy for Louisiana molasses because the Cuban product by the terms of an agreement with the United States is to go into feed.

(Other items from today's New York Journal of Commerce appear on page 2 of the Digest.)

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From New York Journal of Commerce, Feb. 5 -

PERMANENT SUPPORT PRICE LAW HELD VITAL OF US WOOL GROWER-In order to bolster the domestic wool grower's deteriorating position, market sources here believe that Government action on two main issues is required before April. The present base period for parity of 1909-1914 must be changed, they stated, and wool growers should be included under a permanent support price law.

Along with this, it was suggested, the Commodity Credit Corp. should be given authorization to sell below the parity price, as was recommended recently by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson. Below parity sales would permit domestic wools again to compete favorably with foreign types and would permit the CCC to cut down on its raw wool stocks currently estimated at about 500,000,-000 pounds.

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TURPENTINE EXPORT RUSH EXPECTED-A rush of export business in turpentine was predicted yesterday by naval stores producers and dealers following the removal of gun and wood turpentine, dipentene, pine oil and about fifty other commodities from the list of items subject to export control.

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From New York Times, Feb. 5 -

U.S. SPEEDS NITRATE IMPORTATION FOR FERTILIZER-Washington-Representative Frank W. Boykin, Democrat, of Alabama, said today that the Grace Steamship Company had diverted four of its Latin-American freighters to transport Chilean nitrate to help alleviate an acute shortage of fertilizers in this country. He added that the Maritime Commission had requested the diversion. Fifteen ships from the commission's reserve fleet are scheduled to sail soon to bring in 500,000 tons of nitrate before July 1.

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SOY BEAN MEAL SLUMPS: PRICES OFF FROM \$107 A TON TO \$57 TO \$59 IN OMAHA-Omaha-The price of soybean meal, highly nutritious livestock protein feed, has slumped from \$107 a ton in mid-December on the Omaha market to \$57 to \$59.

Wholesalers said much of the meal now being offered is "resell stuff" from retailers who bought too much when the protein feed was scarce. The market is crowded with re-sellers, wholesalers asserted. Mild weather, which reduced use of the protein feed, also was cited as a factor.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, Feb. 5 -

FEDERAL COURT FINES ARMOUR IN TIE-IN SALES-Philadelphia-Armour & Co., meat packer, was fined \$3,400 yesterday in United States District court after its conviction on 17 charges of conspiring to force tie-in sales during the wartime food shortage.

Counsel for the company said the conviction and sentence probably would be appealed to the Circuit court.

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce, Jan. 28 -

YEAR'S CEREAL PRICES SEEN ABOVE PARITY; FOREIGN NEEDS PLACED NEAR U. S. CAPACITY FOR 1947-48 DELIVERY - Washington - In sharp contrast to predictions of many government and private grain experts, an economist extremely close to the world food situation today predicted that the foreign demand for cereals will keep prices above support levels at least through the 1947-48 crop year.

"The world supply situation for cereal grains will show no improvement on July 1 from a year ago," he stated, adding that the demand from cash-paying foreign claimants in the coming crop year will still run close to United States delivery capacity.

He admits that all farm commodity prices will decline in the coming year, but does not believe they will go below 90 per cent of parity.

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From Dallas (Tex.) Timer-Herald, Jan. 28 -

COTTON MEN PRAISE SECRETARY ANDERSON - Dallas cotton men Tuesday had nothing but praise for Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson and the manner in which he has handled the disposal of surplus cotton following Mr. Anderson's address before members of the Dallas Cotton Exchange here Monday.

"We feel that Mr. Anderson is a man who believes in free enterprise and wants to get the government out of the cotton business as quickly as possible," Edmund J. Kahn, president of the Dallas Cotton Exchange, said Tuesday. Mr. Kahn presided at the Dallas Athletic Club luncheon and introduced the Secretary.

"Mr. Anderson has handled the sale of government cotton satisfactorily, in a manner fair to the cotton trade and to the nation," Mr. Kahn said.

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From New Orleans, (La.) Times-Picayune, Jan. 29 -

FAILURE TO DISCLOSE SUGAR FACTS BLAMED FOR CONFUSION; INDUSTRY SPOKESMAN HITS ANDERSON'S SILENCE - Failure of Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson to disclose the salient facts of the sugar situation has so beclouded and confused the entire problem that neither the industry, the Congress nor the consumer can come to any sensible conclusion about when or how rationing of sugar should end.

This was the conclusion Tuesday of Charles P. Farwell, president of Milliken and Farwell, Inc., large Louisiana sugar concern and long-time worker for the benefit of the Louisiana sugar producers and manufacturers.

"We all want sugar rationing to end as soon as reasonably possible without hurting the industry or the consumer. Certainly we do not want run-away market prices such as has sometimes prevailed in the black markets," declared Mr. Farwell, "but as the situation now stands, with Secretary Anderson refusing to tell us how much sugar is to be shipped to undisclosed European countries, no one can calculate what supplies are or should be available to the American public."

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From Lewiston (Me.) Sun, Jan. 27 -

WHAT FARM POLICY? - Editorial - The people of the United States -- as food consumers -- together with Congress ought to do some thinking about what kind of a permanent farm policy we shall have. The word "permanent" is used because ever since 1930 numerous policies have been tried. The country has seen a high-tariff policy. A low-tariff policy, a policy of scarcity put in effect by Henry Wallace, a policy of management from Washington with penalties for over-production, a policy during the war of all-out production, and now a policy of farm-price support through government funds. It's hard to say which one worked the worst.

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From Worcester (Mass.) Telegram, Jan. 25 -

POTATO DUMPING - Editorial - The Department of Agriculture has authorized the farmers to dump all their low-grade and deteriorating potatoes which are stored under Federal price-supporting loans. Its aim is to help the farmers to dispose of their so-called surplus potatoes, estimated at about 45,000,000 bushels. The Department hopes to be able to use about 25,000,000 bushels, in one way or another. It evidently expects that the remaining 20,000,000 will be lost through the dumping program.

There is no sense in criticizing the officials who guessed wrong about the demand for potatoes or about the size of crop to be needed. Neither is there any good reason for blaming the farmers, in Maine and elsewhere, for breaking records of production last year. Further, the government's price-support program is not to be condemned offhand.

There is, however, good reason for criticizing the government for the way in which it has mishandled the surplus potato crop. As early as last October, Senator Brewster of Maine was appealing to the Federal government for prompt aid in storing, dehydrating and in otherwise disposing of potatoes, without waste. But the mighty Federal government was not equal to the task. Delay damage, dumping -- that's the Federal record.

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From Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal, Jan. 30 -

AN UNUSUAL LINE-UP IN THE SUGAR DEBATE - Editorial - The array of pressure groups on the issue of sugar rationing is startlingly unorthodox. This is because the housewives, who would suffer most were rationing suspended, are the very ones whose demands for it are most insistent. They are employing all sorts of emotional appeals involving cake and candy for the children. They are content to believe that we are shipping their sugar off to feed foreigners, and that if rationing were removed, there would be plenty of sugar for everybody. These women are voters, and they have had their effect on some Congressmen.

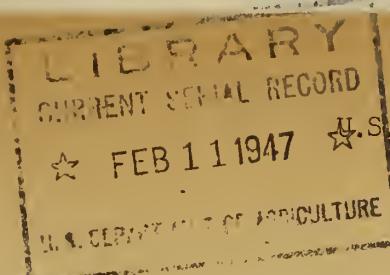
On the other side of the controversy is the sugar industry, standing strangely with the poor remnant of the O.P.A. Earl B. Wilson, president of the California and Hawaiian Sugar Refining Company, has warned that the 1947 sugar supply in this country is 1,000,000 tons (not pounds, mind you) short of public demand. Abandonment of rationing, he says, would bring back the 40-cent pound of sugar which shocked the housewife after World War I. The implications are clear.

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From St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, Jan. 29 -

FOR EXTENDING SUGAR CONTROL - Editorial - All branches of the food industry represented at the convention of the National American Wholesale Grocers Association in Atlantic City last week were strongly in favor of extending sugar rationing and price control beyond March 31, the present expiration date. Delegates predicted that if the law is allowed to lapse on that date, the "1920 debacle" will be repeated.

Propagandists for decontrol have tried to persuade housewives and home canners that more sugar will come on the market if controls are lifted. This, they maintain, would enable American buyers to outbid the rest of the world and thereby obtain the lion's share of the sugar raised in Cuba and other export countries. That, however, would not necessarily mean more sugar on American tables. Most market experts, in fact, believe there would be less, not more, with much of the total supply disappearing into speculative channels where it would be withheld from the market.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, Feb. 6 -

TO ISSUE 10 POUNDS OF SUGAR ON APRIL 1; PRICE BRANCH OF OTC SAYS IT IS CERTAIN THERE WILL BE MORE OF PRODUCT IN '47-The Office of Temporary Controls said today that the first ten-pound sugar stamp will become effective on April 1. The current stamps call for five pounds.

The price administration branch stated that it "seems fairly certain there will be more sugar this year, but due to uncertainty over the size of the anticipated increase, it was unable as yet to fix the expiration date of the ten-pound stamp."

Announcement was made that all sugar stamps validated after April 1 will be good for ten pounds and that the currently valid stamp No. 53, good for only five pounds would expire at Midnight March 31 so that the trade will not have to handle both five and ten pound stamps at the same time. The home-canning provision was declared off for the year 1947.

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TO ACT ON FOOT-AND-MOUTH STUDY-Washington-The Senate Agriculture Committee agreed today to study a request that it investigate an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in cattle areas of Mexico. Chairman Arthur Capper of Kansas said he would appoint a subcommittee of five to consider the proposal of Senator Kenneth S. Wherry of Nebraska for a special inquiry and a recommendation for preventive action by the Agriculture Department. Senate approval would be required prior to a full investigation.

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CURBS ON USE OF CORN BY DISTILLERS LIFTED-Washington-Restrictions on the use of corn by distillers were lifted today by the Department of Agriculture, effective at midnight tonight.

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From The New York Journal of Commerce, Feb. 6-

FARM-INDUSTRY BOXCAR CLAIMS CLASH HEAD-ON: GRAIN EXPORT PROGRAM THREATENS TO FORCE PLANT CLOSINGS SOON-Washington-Industrial and agricultural claims for boxcars have finally met head on, with no indication that any substantial easing of the situation can be expected in the next few months.

With record quantities of grain moving for export under a Government program, industrial areas are beginning to complain that car shortages will soon force plant shutdowns, or at least reduced production.

Not only are agriculture spokesmen putting in their claim for still more cars to move grain, particularly from the Minnesota and Dakota areas, but Congressmen from industrial areas, and particularly from Ohio, are complaining that already too many cars have been allotted to the grain export program.

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Farm Digest 255-47

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Feb. 6-

KNUTSON ORDERS REVIEW OF TRADE PACTS PROGRAM-Washington-Chairman Knutson (Rep. Minn.) of the House Ways and Means Committee, today ordered a review of the Administration's reciprocal trade program.

His announcement came after the committee's Republican members met with Speaker Martin (Rep. Mass.) behind closed doors.

Knutson set the hearing for Feb. 24, and said representatives of the State Department—Presumably led by Undersecretary Will Clayton—will be called in to explain the operations of the program.

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FARM LABOR-American farms will need 90,000 foreign laborers for seasonal work in addition to domestic labor, USDA Labor Branch spokesman tell House committee, and Federal aid in importing the workers is needed.

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From The Wall Street Journal, Feb. 6 -

CANNERS DILEMMA-THEY ASK: HOW MUCH PRODUCE TO PUT UP IN '47?—San Francisco-Wanted: A crystal ball that will show the canned foods supply demand situation next June. Send all offers to California packers.

The big packers are groping uncertainly on how much spinach, asparagus, tomatoes and other foods to put up for the public this year. They haven't faced this decision since prewar days; all they could pack in recent years was readily saleable.

Now the packers are closely watching the movement of their goods right on down to your dinner table. Actually they have sold most of their recent pack; but wholesalers' warehouses are bulging with canned goods and retailers' shelves are full.

Packers know that, though the public's appetite for canned goods is huge, there is frequent resistance to higher prices. Yet they fear prices of vegetables to be canned in the approaching season may be pushed even higher. Packers' costs are going up, not down.

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From New York Herald Tribune, Feb. 6 -

U.S. FOOD TO GERMANS RISES-Berlin-The American Military Government announced today that food imports from the United States to feed Germans in United States occupied territory amounted to 193,000 tons in January. This was the highest monthly total since the beginning of the occupation. Most of the January receipts were flour and grains.

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WOOL BELIEVES PRICES IN MANY LINES TOO HIGH-Chicago-Price in many lines of consumer goods are too high and should come down, General Robert E. Wood, chairman of the board of Sears, Roebuck & Co., said today at a conference on distribution conducted by the Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry.

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From Atlanta Journal, Feb. 2 —

HAVE A POTATO? — Twenty million bushels of potatoes which the taxpayers of the United States bought from growers under the government's farm price support program, are going to be destroyed. Millions and millions of other bushels of potatoes so bought are going to be given or sold at a song for various and sundry more or less useful purposes.

These surplus millions of bushels came about because the government guarantee of 90 per cent of parity made potato growing so profitable that farmers produced 100,000,000 bushels more than could be disposed of practically.

The same sort of thing will be happening in other crops this year and next year, for the government price guarantees will hold good for two years after the formal end of the war.

The farm bloc in Congress might well give a little thought to the prospect and take appropriate steps to protect the taxpayers from a severe rooking. If they permit that to happen, it might be there will be a revulsion of public opinion which will scrap the whole price support system.

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From Mobile Register, Jan. 30 —

MR. ANDERSON'S FARM POLICIES — On the subject of "Adjusted Farm Policies," the Dallas Morning News remarks editorially:

"Secretary (of Agriculture) Anderson's suggestion that the farmer as soon as possible be permitted to stand on his own feet as the price situation adjusts itself to postwar conditions may cost him some friends on the farm.

"Doubtless it will gain him the support of progressive farmers, who long ago realized that continued federal control and artificial price supports are not the solution of the agricultural problem. The secretary of agriculture continues to show much courage in going counter to various policies and expedients adopted during New Deal years.....

"It is time to think about letting agricultural production make the needed economic adjustments in keeping with the law of supply and demand. Stepped-up protection would only further complicate matters. The long-range program as to agricultural policies suggested by Secretary Anderson to get the producer back on his own feet doubtless would satisfy more farmers than the existing arrangement.

"Such a program, too, would be fairer to the consuming public."

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From Houston Post, Jan. 31 —

FOOT AND MOUTH THREAT — Reports of the spread of foot and mouth disease in Mexico bring reminiscent shudders to South Texans who witnessed the siege of that terrible scourge in this section in about 1924. They remember how valuable cattle, exposed to the disease, were killed by the hundreds and buried in long trenches dug on the ranges. Milk from cows in the affected areas was condemned; hay was not allowed to be hauled out of any of the quarantined counties.

It is extremely important that every reasonable precaution be taken to prevent the spread of the new Mexican epidemic across the Rio Grande. And the place in which the preventive efforts should be concentrated now in Mexico.

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson, in Houston for the Fat Stock show, evinced a deep interest in the problem and a determination to do everything possible to keep the disease out of this country.

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From Milwaukee (Wis.) Journal, Jan. 30 -

THE POTATO SCANDAL - Editorial - The United States today has some 45,000,000 bushels of surplus potatoes, held under government price supporting loans. Last fall there were millions of bushels more, but these were left in the fields because of lack of storage. The government has directed farmers to dump their low grade and deteriorating stock, estimated at 20,000,000 bushels. They will be paid for sorting and will then get 90% of parity for what they discard. It is hoped that the other 25,000,000 bushels, which will also be paid for at 90% of parity, may be used for free school lunches, livestock feed, starch and relief exports.

What a sorry picture this is -- half the world hungry and potato prices here so high that many families cannot buy all they need, yet there is a so-called 45,000,000 bushel "surplus."

The government guessed wrong about potatoes, so now it stands to lose millions of dollars paying for its gamble, with no benefit to consumers, here or abroad, and with the potato growing farmer demoralized by the waste.

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From Miami (Fla.) Herald, Feb. 1 -

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE-Editorial - In this day or near-starvation in many lands and inflationary prices in the most fortunate of them it is shocking new that 20,000,000 bushels of American potatoes probably will have to be dumped.

Granting that storage and distribution represents an enormously complex problem, and that agricultural authorities have managed to utilize 80,000,000 bushels of the total crop surplus, the fact remains that such a fate for so much food represents scandalously bad planning.

Certainly the Agricultural Department must have been aware for many months that such a situation was to confront potato raisers. Crop surpluses of that magnitude don't come along without warning. And in some way those 20,000,000 bushels ought to have been gotten to the many hungry people in the world, either to be eaten on the table or fed to livestock that would in turn provide more food. . . .

The situation has the same bad economic odor that went with Henry Wallace's campaign to raise the standard of living by burning crops and killing pigs.

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From Dallas (Tex.) News, Feb. 1 -

NATIONAL COTTON COUNCIL-Editorial - Although some twenty years late in its campaign to restore American cotton to its former rightful place in domestic and world economy, it must be admitted generally that the National Cotton Council is making a valiant fight against the steady encroachment of synthetic and other fibers.

Federal government policies, which led to the reduction of acreage and crops, are now causing an actual cotton shortage at home and abroad at a time when foreign cotton demand is rising. Nor is there any likelihood of greatly increased cotton acreage in this country as long as mechanized methods enable farmers to make more money from wheat, grain sorghums, flax and rice than from cotton which still has to be gathered by hand at a price almost prohibitive in comparison with other staple crops. There still is too much antiquated thinking about cotton which must be got rid of.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST

(For February 7, 1947)

FEB 13 1947

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION  
Washington, 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, Feb. 7 -

SENATORS OFFER WORLD-TRADE PLAN-VANDEBERG AND MILLIKIN ASK FOR A PARTY COMPROMISE ON RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS-Washington-Two Republican Senators at key posts will take into the open tomorrow their fight for peace in a controversy over tariff policy which threatens to split the new Congressional majorities into warring camps. They are Senators Arthur H. Vandenberg, president pro tempore of the Senate and chairman of its Foreign Relations Committee and Eugene D. Millikin, chairman of the Republican conference, or organization, and of the Finance Committee, which handles tariff matters.

Together they will put out formally for public inspection their proposed compromise which already has won State Department acceptance but has been snubbed by Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee, House counterpart of the Senate finance body.

The compromise, involving a new procedure for negotiating and amending reciprocal-trade agreements, probably will be adopted by the Administration regardless of Congressional response. It could be effected without legislation.

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HOOVER STUDIES PLAN FOR 2-ZONE HARVEST-Berlin-Herbert Hoover arrived today on his tour of Germany to study food problems, and went into an hour-long conference with British and American occupation authorities.

Mr. Hoover, assigned to the study by Presidemtn Truman, discussed the food situation and its economic phases with Lieut. Gen. Lucius D. Clay, United States Deputy Military Governor; Col. Hugh Hester, United States Chief of Food and Agriculture; Colonel Hester's British opposite number, C. A. Hughes, and Gen. W. H. Draper Jr., director of the United States economics division.

The former President showed interest in the availability and yield of home grown food in the United States and British zones and in the problem of food collection on a bi-zonal basis.

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BUTTER DROPS AGAIN  $3\frac{1}{2}$  CENTS WHOLESALE-Butter prices, which have soared and dipped as madly as a Coney Island roller coaster, plunged  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cents at wholesale yesterday after many housewives had stopped buying in protest against a 6-cent retail climb earlier this week.

(Other items from New York Times - - - -  
appeared on page 2 of the Digest)

From The New York Times, Feb. 7 (Continued) -

PRICE FOR FOODS DROP 1.2% IN WEEK-Washington-Lower prices for foods offset price advances in most other commodity groups during the week ended on Feb. 1 with the general level of primary market prices unchanged, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau's index of commodity prices in primary markets was 140.3 percent of the 1926 average, 0.9 percent above a month earlier, and 31.4 percent above early February, 1946.

Average market prices of farm products advanced 0.4 percent during the week, but were still 0.8 percent below a month earlier. On the average, farm products were 27.1 percent above the corresponding week of last year.

The group index for foods declined 1.2 percent during the week, with lower prices in all commodity groups. On the average, food prices were 1.5 percent below the first week in January 1947, and 44.4 percent above a year ago.

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From New York Journal of Commerce, Feb. 7-

BROADER SUPPORT AUTHORITY SOUGHT-Washington-Secretary of Agriculture Anderson suggested to Congress last night that the President be given wider authority in protecting the farm price support program.

In a letter filed with the House Clerk, he recommended a bill to permit the President to impose quotas and import fees when an unusual flow of imports threatens the operation of a support program. The quota could not be set at less than 50 percent of the average amount of the product imported annually in the years 1929 through 1933.

Anderson as an example cited the program, now supporting egg prices. He said a sudden influx of eggs from outside the country could strain the market to the point where the Government's support would not be sufficient to sustain a fair price for eggs.

Such a thing never has happened, Anderson said, but he thinks there should be a statutory means of dealing with any such emergency.

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SUGAR AGREEMENT ON IMPORTS FIXED-Under interim programs developed yesterday shipment of raw sugar from Puerto Rico, and refined both from Puerto Rico and Cuba can be started at once, sugar trade sources reported. Settlement of contracts had been hanging fire for sometime.

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From Wall Street Journal, Feb. 7-

FOOT-AND-MOUTH PLAGUE BELOW RIO GRANDE GIVES U.S. CATTLEMEN JITTERS-Houston-The spectre of foot-and-mouth disease south of the border has U.S. livestock growers and dairymen lying awake nights. Fear that it will spread to this country is most acute in Texas. But it's not Texas alone that livestock men are shaking in their boots. The nervousness is nationwide. Dairymen in Wisconsin are nervous. So are hog growers in Illinois and Iowa.

From Jacksonville Florida Times-Union, Feb. 1 -

ORANGE LIMIT PLEA REFUSED BY ANDERSON - Lakeland, (AP) - Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson today denied a recommendation by the Federal Marketing Agreement Committees that movements of No. 2 oranges be limited to not more than one-third of any one shipment.

The ruling came as a surprise to citrus observers here and marked the second or third time in recent years that the Department of Agriculture had vetoed a recommendation by the committees.

The secretary did approve a recommendation which eliminates size No. 126 oranges. The recommendation goes into effect Monday but it is expected to make only a very slight dent in shipments.

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From Buffalo (N.Y.) News, Jan. 30 -

POTATOES AND FARM POLICY - The dumping of thousands of tons of potatoes, Agriculture Department officials hasten to explain, is neither crime nor blunder. In answer to countless queries from citizens appalled by this spectacle of economic waste while famine still stalks the world, the Department glibly notes: (1) that the potato surplus can't be used for foreign relief because dehydration is too costly and potatoes otherwise would spoil en route; (2) that 1,000,000 bushels already have gone into domestic relief (school lunches, etc.) and that charitable institutions have had a standing offer of free potatoes for months; (3) that the Government had to pay for this surplus because the law guaranteed a minimum price to growers; and (4) the Government couldn't prevent the overproduction because all it could control was acreage, whereas many farmers, assured of a big price, changed to richer acres and used fertilizer.

If this explanation be true in all particulars, it puts the potato-dumping orgy in the same category as the war-spent shot and shell, as another small example of war's total waste; not to mention Henry Wallace's little pigs.

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From Bakersfield Californian, Jan. 25 -

POTATOES ARE FOOD = Editorial - Potatoes stored under the Government's price-support program, which amounted to about \$80,000,000, are now being dumped in such instances where the deterioration is excessive. The plan will rid the government, too, of a reported 45,000,000 bushel potato surplus, according to Associated Press report. It is estimated that at least 20,000,000 bushels will be lost through dumping.

The Associated Press has it that a hope exists to divert some of the remaining 25,000,000 bushels into noncommercial uses, such as school luncheon programs, relief exports and livestock feed.

It would seem a decided shame in this day of incredible scientific advances that this food must be wasted. Millions of persons on the face of this globe are hungry today, yet at the same time we have the paradox in a Christian nation of contemplating the destruction of food when people are undernourished. Surely we have the brains to solve this simple equation.

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From Watertown (N.Y.) Times, Feb. 1 -

MILK, A PUBLIC HEALTH UTILITY - Editorial - The community of Brantford, Ontario, has decided to make the sale and distribution of milk a municipal service. It is the first city in Canada to take this revolutionary step. Brantford held a public referendum on the issue asking the question -- "Are you in favor of the sale of milk and milk products by a public utility commission in the city of Brantford?" Overwhelmingly, 1,152 votes to 418 votes, the people approved the plan.

Brantford may have started something. The city of Toronto is said to be studying the proposal. Milk in Toronto is now 18 cents a quart. A city commission studying the milk utility program has stated that municipal control would cut the price to eleven cents. The manner in which Brantford people voted for city control shows how keenly people all over feel about the price of milk.

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From Chicago News, Jan. 31 -

CHEAPER MILK - Editorial - The price of milk has come down another cent a quart in Chicago. It is the second 1-cent reduction this month. The reduction was voluntary on the part of the dairies. It follows cuts in the cost to housewives of butter and cheese.

The new figure is 18½ cents a quart at stores. For most milk delivered at home, the price is 2 cents higher. These figures still leave milk a major item in the budgets of young families. Nevertheless, the reduction will be widely welcomed. It shows anew, at a time when such demonstrations are badly needed, that prices adjust themselves when there is plentiful supply and consumers hold back out of regard for their pocketbooks.

If cuts of even as little as 2 cents can be made in midwinter, a further concession may reasonably be expected later.

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From Minneapolis (Minn.) Star Journal, Jan. 29 -

WANTED: MORE FLAX - Editorial - Farmers who have wondered whether to sell their seed flax at present high market prices or plant it this spring, in the hope that prices will be nearly as good at harvest time, need have no further worries on that subject. The government is going to support flax seed in 1947 at \$6 a bushel (U.S. No. 1, f.o.b., Minneapolis). That is \$2 more than the support price announced last September.

The Department of Agriculture has asked farmers in Minnesota, the Dakotas and Montana to plant a million more acres of flax at the expense of spring wheat. The country's flax goal now is up to 5,000,000 acres for this year, an increase of about 90 per cent over the 1946 acreage, though 1,300,000 acres less than was planted in 1943.

If such an acreage goal can be realized this year -- and there is substantial agreement that it can be with the new support price -- with normal yields the United States should be independent of any large flax seed imports either in 1947 or 1948.

So, farmers looking for a profitable cash crop in 1947 -- a crop with a substantial floor under its price -- can turn to flax at considerable advantage to themselves.

DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For February 10, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D. C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From The New York Journal of Commerce, February 10 -

12 LB. SUGAR RISE PER CAPITA SEEN; SEN. LODGE, MASS., PREDICTS GAIN ON BASIS OF STATE'S FIGURES - On the basis of a supply of 1,400,000 short tons of raw sugar more than a year ago becoming available for U.S. consumers in 1947, Senator Lodge of Massachusetts estimates that per capita consumption will increase by 12 pounds. His estimate was based on figures submitted by Undersecretary of State Clayton on Lodge's inquiry whether the 1,400,000 tons of sugar would be retained for this country. Said Clayton:

"While there is no doubt that the U.S. has a legal claim to all the sugar which it purchases, a decision to reserve the full quantity, or even a disproportionately large share, for domestic consumption would be regarded by other importing countries as a breach of good faith on the part of this Government."

At Salt Lake City, Ody H. Lamborn, New York sugar broker, said on Friday that he viewed the "sugar outlook for the year more optimistically than ever before because I think we've gotten over the hump."

"Sugar production insight for the United States this year is 9,300,000 tons compared with 7,780,000 a year ago," Lamborn told the beverage manufacturers. "You may reasonably expect close to 7,000,000 tons" for United States consumption he said.

Lamborn expressed approval of continuance of rationing but said this should be terminated by Jan. 1, 1948.

MORE CROP LOSSES FEARED FROM COLD - Chicago, (AP) - Most of the nation is locked in the grip of a spreading cold wave that poses a new threat to Southern vegetable, citrus and tobacco crops.

Temperatures were below normal from the Rocky Mountains to the Atlantic Coast and freezing weather was bearing down again on the tobacco growing regions of Georgia and the citrus and vegetable belt of Florida.

Florida, where an unexpected freeze damaged the vegetable and citrus crops Wednesday night, was warned to expect low ground temperatures ranging from 17 to 38 degrees by this morning.

**TURPENTINE USE RISE IS FORECAST** - New terpene chemicals, now in laboratory and pilot plant stages of development, foretell of a demand for turpentine which will tax the capacity of Southern Naval Stores producing facilities even after the world backlog of demand has been filled, a spokesman for a large chemical producer and consumer of the pine tree derivative said over the week-end.

He added, however, that any wide use of turpentine will depend upon a decline in price from the present abnormally high level of \$1.19 per gallon, f.o.b. Savannah.

From The New York Times, Feb. 10 -

REDUCTION IS URGED IN FERTILIZER EXPORT-Washington-A House Agriculture sub-committee demanded tonight that the Administration reduce the export of fertilizer especially to occupied countries, asserting that the supply for this country was 20 percent below the demand.

In a report submitted to Congress in the light of "the fertilizer needs for this year's planting season," the committee recommended specifically:

That the fertilizer industry, railroads and Government agencies join in a program of "timed distribution" to make sure fertilizer will reach farmers "at the time when it will do the most good."

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HOOVER GOES TO HAMBURG-Berlin- Former President Herbert Hoover left tonight for Hamburg to continue in the British occupation zone his survey of Germany's food situation. He is due on Tuesday in Stuttgart, in the American zone.

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REPORTS ON FOOD SUPPLY; AGRICULTURE SEES LITTLE CHANGE IN DOMESTIC STOCKS - Washington-The Agriculture Department said tonight this year's domestic food supply will probably be about as large as last year's, but may cost slightly more.

It reported commercial stocks of most foods are larger than a year ago, imports are increasing and production seems likely to continue high.

A larger proportion of the total supply will go to American consumers this year because of the indicated reduction in military needs and exports.

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From the New York Herald Tribune, Feb. 10 -

WORLD'S RICE CROP UP BY ABOUT 11%; LARGEST INCREASE REPORTED IN THE FAR EAST-Washington-The Agriculture Department reported today the world's 1946-'47 rice crop totaled about 7,100,000,000 bushels, an increase of about 11 percent over the previous crop. Production still was about 4 percent below the prewar average of about 7,400,000,000 bushels.

The largest production increase was in the Far East, where normally about 95 percent of the world's output is grown. The department said substantial increases in production in China, India and Japan should help to relieve food shortages in those countries.

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INQUIRY ASKED IN COTTON GOODS PRICE TRENDS - Predicting that prices of house dresses will inevitably rise if cotton dress material prices continue to climb, M. J. Lovell, director and counsel of the House Dress Institute, has asked for a Congressional investigation of the cotton textile industry.

"Although spot raw cotton has receded in price some 20 to 25 percent, piece goods prices have risen up to 50 percent over former Office of Price Administration ceiling prices," he said in a letter to President Truman. Cotton futures have declined even more than this, he noted.

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From St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, Feb. 3 -

'ECONOMY' PLAN THREATENS AAA - Washington - A Republican-Democratic move is gaining strong momentum behind the scenes in Congress to knock out the AAA farm program and committees, it was revealed Sunday.

The move is for the government to center agricultural spending next year on federal farm price supports costing an estimated 330 million dollars. This, agriculture's share in the stiff economies ahead, would be taken in the form of cuts of AAA payments rather than of funds for price supports. Both the AAA funds and the price support funds can not be voted if economy pledges are to be carried out, it is declared.

Wiping out completely the annual appropriation of about 300 million dollars for AAA soil conservation payments to farmers is the objective of the move.

This would strip off administrative funds and effectively put out of business after this year the AAA county and community committees elected by farmers to operate the farm programs that have been carried on since 1933. It would bring to an end the AAA programs.

If successful, the move probably would result in concentrating federal Soil Conservation Service or Extension service after this year.

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From Pittsfield (Mass.) Berkshire Eagle, Feb. 3 -

UNRRA SPURTS FREE POTATOES - Washington - The Department of Agriculture says that an offer of 80,000,000 free bushels of surplus potatoes to help feed the starving in Europe has been spurned by international relief agencies.

The free offer was revealed by the Department as complaints mounted all over the country against Secretary Anderson's announced intention of dumping an estimated 80,000,000 to 90,000,000 bushels of surplus potatoes.

"UNRRA and foreign governments have not been willing to purchase dehydrated potatoes at a cost of 25 to 30 cents a pound when they could purchase flour at five or six cents per pound," department officials quoted Secretary Anderson as saying.

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From Phoenix Arizona Republic, Jan. 31 -

CAN'T JEOPARDIZE SUPPLY - Editorial - Commendation is due government authorities for placing an immediate embargo on Mexican cattle which were possible carriers of the foot-and-mouth disease. Perhaps the Mexican cattle industry would not be in its present plight if officials there had exercised similar precautions against Brazilian cattle which are reported to have infected Mexican herds.

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From Tacoma (Wash.) News-Tribune, Jan. 29 -

"ONCE A BUREAUCRAT - - -" - Editorial - Another who, after a good start, has become afflicted with bureausitis is Agriculture Secretary Clinton Anderson. He warns that sugar will climb to 40 cents a pound if controls are removed. Apparently he has forgotten Elliott Roosevelt's forecast of bread at \$15 a loaf and the fact that butter is now selling cheaper than under OPA, even without subsidy payments.

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From Philadelphia Bulletin, Feb. 5 -

SUGAR CONTROLS - Editorial - Sugar holds a special place in the recommendations for continued Government control sent to Congress by President Truman. There are objections from private industry to the extension of controls over some commodities, but there is a fairly general agreement in the sugar trade that some form of control is desirable over sugar supplies and distribution.

If sugar controls are scrapped now, there will be a scramble which will send prices skyward. The housewife may not be able to get enough sugar even at the inflated price, since large commercial users with plenty of cash would enter the market in a big way. The result would be an inequitable distribution. Nor do retailers want the inevitable boom and bust in prices.

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From Denver (Colo.) Post, Feb. 2 -

GROWERS ASSERT FREEDOM FROM BUREAUCRATIC WHIMS IS VITAL By J. Elmer Brock, Vice Chairman of the Joint Livestock Committee on Public Lands. - If the Livestock industry---the backbone of western economic life---is to survive, the time has come to place public grazing lands in the ownership of the cattle-men and sheepmen who use it in the conduct of their business.

Administration of those grazing lands by various bureaus under systems of federal overlordship has harassed the stockmen of the west for years and left them at the mercy of the whims and edicts of bungling officials.

No industry could long survive in the world of today if it had no control over its own plant and occupied that plant only under a system of antagonistic sufferance from an all-powerful landlord. The grazing lands of the west comprise the producing plant of the livestock industry.

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From Salt Lake City (Utah) Tribune, Feb. 1 -

FARM BUREAU MEET URGES MORE DIRECT MARKETING - "Farmers want to produce in abundance without controls or regimentation, but they also want certain safeguards so that they will not be drowned in the flood of their own abundance."

With these words, V. Allen Olson, moderator for the Utah State Farm Bureau federation's annual convention opened direct attack against produce dealers who are gradually removing profit margins for agricultural products - asserting that "the Utah farmer must find a more direct route to market if he wants to keep his head above water."

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From Miami (Fla.) Herald, Feb. 2 -

LATE BLIGHT IS BLAMED FOR DAMAGE - A possible \$7,500,000 loss to Dade county growers as a result of late blight was foreseen Saturday as an estimated toll of 60 per cent of the area's 14,000 acres of tomatoes already has fallen to the apparently uncontrollable fungus disease.

The disease, which last season was kept under control with a five-day spraying program recommended by Dr. George D. Ruchie of the Sub-Tropical Experiment station at Homestead, this year has refused, in most instances, to respond to any kind of treatment.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For February 11, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION  
Washington 25, D.C.

FEB 17 1947 ☆

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031).

From the Wall Street Journal, Feb. 11 -

RAIL CAR SHORTAGE HAS BUREAUCRATS FIGHTING: SHIPPERS ATTACK ROADS-The freight car famine, that now-chronic disorder of the American economy, has turned bureaucrats against bureaucrats, shippers against railroads, section against section--and even nation against nation.

In Washington, the Office of Defense Transportation and the Office of Temporary Controls are disputing whether car builders should get enough steel to build 10,000 or just 7,000 cars a month--and it's dubious whether even the minimum wish will be realized.

Spokesmen for shippers, like I. M. Herndon, manager of the Chicago Board of Trades transportation department, are charging "inefficiency" of the railroads in slow movement and switching of cars.

Men from grain-growing states have carried to a Congressional committee dark hints that the eastern railroads are engaged in what amounts to a plot against them, with collusion of the Association of American Railroads and assorted Federal agencies. Eastern railroads, according to plainsmen like Walter R. Scott, executive vice president of the Kansas City Board of Trade, "pirate" cars belonging to the western roads. And the cars they do send back west are said to be in filthy condition.

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WINTER WEATHER NEEDLES SLAGGING FARM STAPLES INTO A NEW PRICE SPURT-A bushel of wheat is now worth about 18 cents more than early last month. Corn has bounced up some seven cents since late January. Top grades of hogs now selling around \$26 a hundredweight were \$5 cheaper at the turn of the year. Wholesale butter in New York has snapped up to  $69\frac{1}{2}$  cents; it sold for 59 cents last month.

Winter in Europe is as important as winter at home as a price booster. Over the long pull it may be more so. Bitter cold is putting a blight on the wrecked continent's 1947 crop prospects. That means one thing: Potential pleas for more food from the American cornucopia.

On the domestic scene, snow and ice prod prices by slowing movement of grain, livestock and dairy products to market.

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CLIMBING COTTON PRICES JOIN THE ADVANCE--WITHOUT WINTER'S HELP-Edging steadily upward, cotton now sells for four cents a pound more than a bare three weeks ago. A bale of cotton is worth about \$20 more than on January 21.

The king textile staple is in a position different from that of other key farm commodities. With demand heavy, recent crops have not been large. And there's no bumper crop in sight. Agriculture Secretary Anderson has asked farmers to boost this year's plantings 27% above 1946. But present indications are that farmers won't expand their acreage more than 10% to 15%.

From the Wall Street Journal, Feb. 11 -

FATS AND OILS shortage will hang on through this year at least. One estimate places 1947 world supplies 25% below prewar. Parcelling out meagre stocks is giving the International Emergency Food Council some prime headaches. The U.S. has served notice on I.E.F.C. that it wants a larger share of the pie. Officials in Washington doubt that other countries have done all they can to boost production--will cut exports unless signs of action along that line are uncovered.

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From The New York Times, Feb. 11 -

ANDERSON PROMOTES J. B. GILMER-Washington-Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson, completing a departmental reorganization which has been in abeyance since last fall, announced today the appointment of Jesse B. Gilmer as administrator of the production and marketing administration and president of the Commodity Credit Corporation. Mr. Gilmer has been acting in those capacities since last November.

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AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT ACCUSES BROKER OF MANIPULATING PRICES OF SPOT BUTTER-Washington-Violation of the Commodity Exchange Act was charged in a complaint served today by the United States Department of Agriculture against Zenith-Godley Company, Inc., New York City butter and egg brokerage concern, and its president, John McClay Jr.

The charge is manipulating the price of spot butter in interstate commerce from Dec. 18 through Dec. 24, 1946, as agents for the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association, which was fined \$25,000 on Jan. 27, and four of its officers \$4,000 more, for violating the Commodity Exchange Act.

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FLORIDA HALTS FRUIT SHIPMENTS-Lakeland-The Florida Citrus Commission took steps today to prevent frozen fruit from reaching consumers by slapping a seven day embargo on movement and sale of citrus fruit. The ban is effective at midnight tomorrow and applies also to fruit used for canning and to express shipments of fruit. The restriction will throw out of work an estimated 20,000 to 25,000 citrus plant workers. Today's action stemmed from the Feb. 8 freeze.

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From N. Y. Journal of Commerce, Feb. 11-

WORLD GROUP SETS BEAN, PEAS QUOTAS-Washington-The International Emergency Food Council, announcing today the allocation of 109,950 metric tons of beans and peas for needy countries, said the distribution will meet only one-eighth of the actual requirements for the next six months.

From New Orleans Times-Picayune, Feb. 8 -

GUATEMALAN POTATOES USED TO DEVELOP HARDIER VARIETY; SCIENTISTS CROSS WILD AND DOMESTIC TYPES - American scientists are taking wild Irish potatoes from Guatemala, crossing them with domesticated varieties and getting a much healthier potato as a result.

They are doing the same thing with corn and beans. And there are lots of other wild fruit and vegetables, such as peppers and tomatoes, which they haven't even gotten around to yet.

Just how all this is accomplished was described in New Orleans Friday by Dr. A. T. Erwin, research professor of horticulture at Iowa State college, who is on his way to Guatemala to carry on additional research.

"Guatemala," said Dr. Erwin, "is the home of more wild yet useful plants than you can imagine. Although our more domesticated varieties of fruits and vegetables may seem superior-larger, more tasty, smoother, yet the wild varieties contain certain characteristics which ours lack. These we can utilize in a cross."

"We have a type of corn down there, for instance, which grows at an elevation of 5,000 or 6,000 feet above sea level. This corn can withstand the cold better than our corn in Iowa. So by crossing the wild corn with ours we can develop a hardier type."

Certain wild Irish potatoes found in Guatemala, said the Iowa professor, are more resistant to virus diseases than our Irish potato.

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From Antigo (Wisc.) Daily Journal, Feb. 7 -

SAYS FARM WORKER PLACEMENT SHOULD BE DONE BY STATE - Washington (AP) - Stanley Rector, chief counsel for the Wisconsin industrial commission, said today placement of farm workers should be transferred from county agents to state employment services.

"Our contention is," Rector told the house agriculture committee, "that there is a great deal of duplication of work in rural areas. Under the present setup, we cannot certify a man to an agricultural job, but only refer him to a county agent."

Testifying on a measure by chairman Hope (Rep., Kan.) to continue the farm labor supply program until June, 1948, Rector said:

"If we had the authority, we could take care of the farm placement in Wisconsin.

He said he opposes renewal of the federal farm labor recruitment program and has little interest in obtaining foreign labor to aid in the peak farm seasons.

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From Kansas City Packer, Feb. 8 -

THE HOPE AMENDMENT - Editorial - Representative Hope's proposed amendment to the AAA act, which would bring all agricultural commodities, including processed fruits and produce, under the marketing agreement provisions of that law, has the processors scared.

They are afraid the producers might "gang up" on them and deny processors access to a wanted grade, quantity or quality, or come to some other agreement which processors wouldn't relish. Processors fear government officials might influence producers' operations in directions not always favorable to the processing interests.

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From Kansas City Star, Feb. 5 -

FEAR DISEASE OUTBREAK - Editorial - Southwestern stockmen are tremendously concerned over the spread of the foot and mouth disease in Mexico. According to latest reports the disease now has been found in the state of Durango, about 350 miles from our border, and it may be present even closer. Livestock men have hoped that Mexico would ask us to send sanitary officials to aid in stamping out the epidemic, and a joint U. S.-Mexican commission has proposed such action, but so far Mexico is fighting the disease alone, using the only known control method, the destruction of infected animals.

Because of the 2,500-mile border between this country and Mexico, much of it unfenced, it is feared that stray animals may cross the line and bring the infection into this country. The virus also can be transmitted on the shoes of travelers, by horses and other means. All cloven-hooved animals are subject to the infection. Since the seven outbreaks we have had in this country caused a total loss of 200 million dollars, the economic threat of the presence of the disease in the neighboring republic readily can be seen.

Livestock owners believe that Washington is taking the Mexican situation too calmly, that a few dollars used now to help Mexico stamp out the disease might save many millions later. They are trying to persuade the proper officials to bring pressure on Mexican authorities to ask officially for our aid, and then to appropriate sufficient funds to help clean out the infection before it crosses the border.

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From Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution, Feb. 9 -

BUT, HOW ABOUT SOME DIVIDENDS? - Editorial - Permanent pastures in Georgia continue to increase, according to E. D. Alexander, agronomist for the Agricultural Extension Service. Moreover, there are roughly four times as many acres available for Winter grazing in the State this year as last, Extension Service surveys show. "Cows grazing on Winter pasture produce one-half-gallon of milk more than they produce on dry feed alone," Alexander declares. "In addition, the amount of hay and other dry feed can be reduced about one half and some saving is made on grain."

All of which is very interesting. But what the average citizen wants to know is when this year-round pasturage he keeps hearing so much about is going to result in lower prices for the milk he has to buy.

Twenty-two cents a quart is too much for milk in Georgia. Otherwise, how can it sell for so much less in areas where there is no winter grazing?

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From Grand Rapids (Mich.) Press, Feb. 6 -

SOIL-EROSION WAR WILDLIFE; MAP PLANS FOR BATTLE ON REGIONAL BASIS - East Lansing - The battle of soil erosion in Michigan will be fought on a regional as well as a district basis this year, it was decided here Thursday at the annual meeting of the State Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

Farm delegations voted to divide the state into seven regions, each with a chairman, secretary and treasurer.

R. Lester Hill of Caro, re-elected president of the state association, explained the number of conservation districts has multiplied so fast that a regional organization was considered necessary. There are now 36 districts in the state, serving more than 80,000 farmers in 29 counties. There were only 28 districts a year ago.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For February 12, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION  
Washington 25, D.C.

\* FEB 18 1947 \*

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, Feb. 12 -

FATS SHORTAGE IS SEEN: U.S. AIDE SAYS SUPPLIES WILL BE LOW ALL OF SUMMER-Washington-Omer W. Herman, an Agriculture Department official, predicted today that supplies of edible fats and oils for American consumers will be "very short" from April through September.

He made the forecast in telling a House food shortage investigating committee that the Agriculture Department opposes the International Emergency Food Council's proposals for world allocation of fats and oils.

Mr. Herman, director of the fats and oils division, said Secretary Anderson had set as a 1947 goal an estimated 40 to 41 pounds per capita for consumers in the United States, compared with 38.5 pounds in 1946 and 46 pounds in prewar years.

However, Mr. Herman asserted, the IEFC proposal would mean a substantial reduction in the amount for American consumers.

He said plans call for import of 898,000,000 pounds of fats and oils and export of 463,000,000, thus leaving a net import of 435,000,000 pounds for 1947.

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STABLE PRICES SET AS WORLD FOOD AIM: WIDER USE ALSO GOAL OF BRUCE REPORT-International efforts to stabilize food prices and increase consumption, rather than to restrict production, were cited here yesterday as the aims of the Bruce Commission report, an outgrowth of proposals by Sir John Orr to the United Nations for a World Food Board. Gove Hambidge, of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, revealed these conclusions in advance of printing of the final report of the commission.

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U.S. TO BUY TURKEYS TO SUPPORT PRICES-Washington-The Agriculture Department stated today that it would enter the glutted turkey market and buy up to 10,000,000 pounds of dressed birds to prevent a loss to producers.

The country wide buying program, required by the price support law, is intended to give growers a price reflecting not less than 90 percent of parity. It will start immediately and run through June 30.

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COLD GRIPS SOUTH: FLORIDA TURNS TO SMUDGE FIRES IN EFFORT TO SAVE FRUIT CROP-Winter temperatures were moderate in the East and Midwest yesterday but in parts of the "sunny South" the mercury still was flirting with freezing weather, and fruit and vegetable crops were threatened in spite of a wide use of smudge pots.

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From New York Times, Feb. 12 -

ALASKA PULP SUPPLY DESCRIBED AS HUGE-Washington-Alaska can produce one-fourth the newsprint that the United States currently consumes and the United States Forest Service is interested in helping her to do so, Frank Heintzleman, regional forester of Juneau, said today.

Mr. Heintzleman said he has temporarily cast aside his Alaskan duties in order to peddle the pulp paper possibilities of the Territory.

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2 SOVIET REPUBLICS FACE WHEAT CRISIS: UKRAINE AND WHITE RUSSIA ARE SHORT OF SEED AND WILL LOSE UNRRA FOOD SUPPLIES-Moscow-The food situation in the Ukraine and White Russia is arousing grave concern among United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation officials in the two republics. At the same time reports reaching the capital indicate that in a number of districts the farmers are short of seed for the all important spring sowing.

These two facets of the Soviet Union's most important problem serve to emphasize the urgency of the situation here. According to UNRRA officials, April will be a critical month when supplies from last year's harvest will have been exhausted and the winter wheat harvest will not have been harvested and processed for consumption.

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From Wall Street Journal, Feb. 12 -

GOVERNMENT AGAIN HEAVY BUYER OF FLOUR-The Production and Marketing Administration purchased large quantities of southwestern enriched wheat flour during the past two days to supplement the Government's export program. Previously the PMA was able to buy only small quantities due to the agency's low buying price, but over the weekend the purchasing basis was advanced 10 cents per cwt.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, Feb. 12 -

REA GRANTS 8 MILLION LOAN TO CO-OPERATIVE-Washington-The rural electrification administration has granted a loan of 8 million dollars to the Dairyland Power facilities serving consumers in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota. The cooperative supplies power to 25 distribution cooperatives serving about 53,000 rural consumers. The loan will be used to construct a hydro-electric generating plant with 15,000 kilowatt capacity on the Flambeau river, north of Ladysmith, Wis. and for other facilities.

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From Flint (Mich.) Journal, Feb. 5 -

POTATO BREAD PLAN GAINS FAVOR; SEEN AS REMEDY FOR NATION'S SURPLUS - Washington - Favorable reaction at the Department of Agriculture was reported today by Michigan representatives interested in the promotion of potato flour.

Rep. Shafer, Michigan Republican, took a delegation to the department Tuesday in the interests of the plan to use a potato flour culture in all bread products.

They reported that the proposition met with favor on the lower level of the department, and that the secretary of agriculture would be asked to recommend that all bakers use it.

Department of Agriculture figures indicated that 23 million bushels of the 100 million bushels potato surplus could be used to advantage, if 40 per cent of the Nation's bakers would use the potato flour culture in their baking.

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From Burlington (Vt.) Free Press, Feb. 5 -

AIKEN STRESSES NEED FOR FOOD ALLOTMENT PROGRAM - Montpelier - The need for a national food allotment program is accentuated by the possibility that even with full employment American families will be going hungry while our farmers are looking for places to sell their products, Sen. Aiken said in his address before the Vermont Food Advisory Committee. With less than full employment, the outlook for want in the midst of plenty would be far more serious.

Prospects are that money will be spent on some kind of program anyway, he continued. There seems to be the choice of paying farmers not to produce, as in the 1930's, or of paying for distribution where needed.

The senator presented figures to show how millions of citizens living on fixed incomes such as old age pensions, old age and survivors' insurance and retirement and disabled payments do not have sufficient income to maintain health.

The Department of Agriculture, he said, estimates that the food allotment program would benefit families that have an annual per capita income of less than \$478, on a basis of 1945 figures.

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From Omaha Nebraska World Herald, Feb. 5 -

'JOB IS TO USE PROPERLY EACH DROP OF RAIN'; GOVERNOR TELLS FARMERS 'STOP KIDDING YOURSELF ABOUT U. S. PAYMENTS' - Lincoln - Gov. Val Peterson on Tuesday advocated three primary steps he considers essentials to "building Nebraska." He listed: 1. Construction of the Pick-Sloan Plan for the Missouri Basin. (2) Rapid and complete establishment of soil conservation farming. (3) Full development of chemurgic research.

The Governor spoke at the first general session of Organized Agriculture at the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture.

Governor Peterson said Nebraska nearly every year needs a little more rain than it gets.

"Our job," he said, "is to preserve and use properly every drop of moisture that falls."

To make the fullest use of water, he said, Nebraska should have the million additional acre of irrigation promised under the Pick-Sloan Plan.

"Soil Conservation," he declared "is something you've got to do whether or not the Federal Government pays you to do it. "You've got to do it in your own self-interest." Farmers, he said, have to stop kidding themselves about Government payments.

From Trenton (N.J.) Times, Feb. 5 -

U. S. SUPPORT MAY REDUCE POTATO PRICE - Potatoes may be much cheaper this year, if the Federal price support program is revised as suggested, the State Department of Agriculture said today.

In the past the Government has bought carlots, paying farmers an established price on a grade basis for the stock. While this has resulted in supporting the price for the grower, it has not afforded consumers an opportunity to buy in quantity or at more favorable terms.

The plan under consideration would permit the market price to fluctuate according to supply. The Government would pay producers the difference between the prevailing market figure and the guaranteed support price.

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From Fargo (N.D.) Forum, Feb. 2 -

NEW BOXCAR SHORTAGE IS FACING FARMERS - Editorial - Another boxcar shortage is facing the farmers of the Middlewest. They are rightly nervous about it. It arises, at the moment, from the fact that in the interval between now and seeding time farmers must move the bulk of their 1946 wheat, and the need for boxcars is at a peak. The farmers complain, among other things, that the eastern railroads are using much of the rolling stock of the western railroads and that there seems to be no disposition to straighten things out.

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From Dallas (Tex.) News, Feb. 5 -

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE - Foot-and-mouth disease could easily break out among Texas cattle again as it did in Gulf Coast herds in 1924, causing damage estimated at \$4,000,000 and resulting in the slaughter of 132,000 head of livestock. Texas cattlemen are greatly alarmed over the recent outbreak in Mexico, which could have been prevented if officials of that country had taken the needed precautions. Now with Texas and other outlets in this country closed not only to Mexican-owned cattle but to herds owned by cowmen of our own country heavy losses are likely to result because of lack of grain and other feeds in the Mexican ranch country.

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From Watertown (N.Y.) Times, Feb. 3 -

MORE SUGAR FOR AMERICANS - Editorial - The agricultural committee of the house of representatives insists that American families should be given from ten to 15 pounds more sugar this year than last. It admits that this would mean that foreign nations would receive a half million less tons of Cuban sugar than they received last year. This would be more than offset, they say, by the increase in sugar production in the European area. Such production it is estimated, will be 1,800,000 tons greater in 1947 than in 1946.

Secretary Anderson admits that there can be an increase in the sugar ration this year but says it cannot exceed ten pounds to a family. Even that would help materially but we suggest that the department of agriculture look carefully into this matter of European production before limiting the increase to ten pounds. European production is going to be up 1,800,000 tons, then certainly we are entitled to a much larger share of the Cuban crop than we were last year.

DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For February 13, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 434A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, Feb. 13 -

ANDERSON BACKED ON CATTLE DISEASE-Washington-A Senate Agriculture subcommittee approved today a program outlined by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson for cooperation with Mexico in a campaign to stamp out an epidemic of hoof and mouth disease among Mexican cattle.

A resolution the committee approved would authorize Secretary Anderson to spend such sums as are necessary to carry out the control program. Under it any concentrated slaughtering of livestock would be resorted to only if and when infection should break out in the northern part of Mexico.

Secretary Anderson said no Mexican cattle now were permitted to enter this country, with the result that livestock raisers in the northern part of Mexico were forced to ship southward for their market.

Should the disease reach into northern Mexico, he, with the Mexican Government, would want to step in immediately and carry on an intensive slaughtering program.

He frowned upon suggestions of some American cattle raisers that the United States should finance wholesale slaughtering of diseased herds in southern Mexico. Such a program would cost between \$75,000,000 and \$100,000,000 he said, and there would be no assurance of its success.

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HOOVER IN AUSTRIA TO VIEW HER NEEDS-Vienna-Herbert Hoover arrived in Austria today to study food and rehabilitation. He has defined the chief object of his mission as finding ways and means of increasing the German and Austrian food supplies to decrease the burden on taxpayers in the United States..

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U.S. ORDERS PURCHASE OF ARGENTINE LINSEED-Washington-The Department of Agriculture today instructed George Messersmith, United States Ambassador to Argentina, to complete negotiations with the Argentine Government for the purchase of 40,000 tons of Argentine linseed oil.

The department accepted up to noon today offers by American industrial firms to buy the commodity at 36.75 cents a pound, duty paid. Shortly after the deadline officials reported that the department would send all offers to Mr. Messersmith, together with instructions to close the deal. The Commodity Credit Corporation had offered the oil on the condition that the transaction was completed.

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From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, Feb. 13 -

LOWER LUMBER PRICES URGED BY US AGENCY-Washington-Lower prices for lumber were urged today by the Commerce Department's Forest Products Section today.

"Lumber prices since decontrol have gone up much more sharply than have prices of other building materials and there is now danger that lumber dealers may lose some of their markets unless prices can be stabilized at more moderate levels," the agency said in a statement.

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From the N. Y. Journal of Commerce, Feb. 13 -

ASKS CONTINUED NITROGEN CONTROL: IEFC SEES CONTINUING ACUTE SHORTAGE UNLESS STOCKS ALLOCATED-Washington-While shortages of other fertilizer materials will ease in 1948, the world shortage of nitrogen will be intensified unless some form of international allocation control is continued through next year.

This, in substance, is the future outlook of the world fertilizer situation as detailed by the committee on fertilizer of the international emergency food council.

Making no specific recommendation for continued control of nitrogen distribution past June 30, 1947, the committee warned today that in the absence of any form of world control after 1947 the maldistribution of nitrogen on the world market is almost inevitable.

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FREEZE CAUSES \$50 MILLION DAMAGE TO FLORIDA CITRUS-Washington-The Weather Bureau today estimated last week's freeze damage to citrus fruits and cut crops in Florida at \$50,000,000.

The bureau said the cold weather has caused considerable damage in unprotected groves, except in the Indian River, lower East Coast, and West-Central coastal areas where only slight damage was reported.

Loss to unprotected cut crops for the entire States was very heavy, except in the Bradenton-Ruskin area where the loss was said to be light.

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BILL WOULD BAN EXPORT OF SUGAR-Washington-Legislation prohibiting the export of sugar from this country was introduced today by Representative Reed (Rep. N.Y.). It provides a maximum penalty of a \$10,000 fine and a year's imprisonment for violations. The legislation, if enacted, would become effective May 1. Reed contended in a statement that this country is depriving its own candy makers of sugar and sending it abroad to foreign candy manufacturers who ship their products to the United States.

Terming the figures "quite startling," Reed said that 1,100,000 pounds of candy were imported in 1941 while the amount came to 67,575,000 pounds in 1945.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, Feb. 13 -

UNCOVER WIDE ABUSE OF VET AID ON FARMS-The veteran administration said yesterday it will begin more rigorous enforcement of on the job training of veterans as farm operators in Illinois because of abuses of the program. H. E. Gardner, supervisor of agricultural education and training in Illinois regional office of the VA said that in the last year the administration has "interrupted" the farm training of more than 500 Illinois veterans when it was learned they were not in need of it. Approximately 10,600 Illinois veterans are enrolled in the farm training program under the GI bill of rights.

Many of the 500 were veterans who have lived on farms all their lives and returned to farm work from military service, enrolling as "trainees."

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From the Packer, Feb. 8 -

DISCUSS CURRENT POTATO SURPLUS - Lansing, Mich. - Representatives of the Michigan potato industry met here this week under the auspices of the Michigan Potato Development Association and the agricultural committee of the Detroit Board of Commerce to consider the potato situation.

Fred P. Hibst of Cadillac, secretary of the Potato Shippers' Association, viewed with concern that the government was about to encourage farmers to dump good, edible potatoes.

Industry leaders said there is enough consumer prejudice against potatoes now without creating more by government waste of food foodstuff. They believed something constructive should be done to increase consumption rather than curtail consumption with unfavorable publicity and propaganda.

Mr. Hibst said the future of the potato industry was being jeopardized by the manner in which the government's price support program is operating, and by misbranding problems calls for a more rigid enforcement of grading and branding laws.

The meeting was held at a time when the potato market was trying to recover from the shock on the government report on January 1 merchantable stocks. This report showed Michigan holdings to be 2,000,000 bushels greater than a year ago, but 6 per cent below the state's ten year average.

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The Milwaukee Journal, Feb. 9 -

WISCONSIN IS TESTING GROUND FOR NEW CROP INSURANCE; TOBACCO, CORN, WHEAT AND FLAX PROTECTED AGAINST TOTAL LOSS BY SMALL PREMIUMS - Lake Mills, Wisc. - Wisconsin is one of the states being used as a testing ground for crop insurance.

Growers of four crops, tobacco, corn, wheat and the fickle flax, by paying a premium of a few bushels are being protected against total loss.

Uncle Sam first started dabbling in crop insurance in 1938. But the laws were loosely drawn, and the program "blew up" amid charges that many farmers had been drawing "soft money" for "lost" crops they really had no intention or means of raising.

It was reinstated in 1945 with creation of the Federal Crop Insurance Corp., backed by the federal government. But this time, the insurance was limited to a few counties as a testing ground. Some of these are in Wisconsin. A. W. Hamann of Lake Mills, former AAA agent, is state director of the new program.

There hasn't been a serious crop failure in Wisconsin in more than 10 years. But at best, farming is too often a gamble, there being many hazards over which the farmer has little or no control.

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From New Orleans Times-Picayune, Feb. 9 -

FARM PRODUCTION CONTROL FAVORED; O'NEAL WARNS ON PRICE SUPPORT EXPENDITURE - Washington - Edward A. O'Neal, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, said Friday the American people "will not continue to pay enormous sums" to support farm prices unless production controls are maintained. O'Neal said the farm bureau desires elimination of "duplication, overlapping and unnecessary expense" in operation of federal farm programs, suggested farmers "have a voice" in administering them, and called for "a maximum of decentralization."

From Grand Rapids (Mich.) Press, Feb. 4 -

DAIRYMEN TOLD BUTTER PRICE DROP NOT DUE TO HIGH OUTPUT - The decline of 30 cents a pound in the price of butter has been the result of the wartime destruction of the nation's produce distribution system and not of overproduction of the dairy product, E. J. Ryger of South Bend, Ind., manager of the Midwest Producers Creameries, Inc., reported Monday at the annual Michigan district meeting of the five-state dairy federation.

During the wartime butter shortage, Ryger said, retailers went direct to creameries for supplies. He explained that OPA pricing regulations tended to encourage direct sales. This practice put many jobbers and wholesalers out of business, Ryger stated.

With the return of a free economy, the dairy leader said, butter prices advanced and these market advances stimulated production. As supplies became more plentiful, Ryger said, many price-conscious buyers "forgot their wartime promises not to forget their suppliers in periods of shortages" and began shopping around. This caused creameries to try to establish market outlets through former jobbers and wholesalers, he stated, but these operators were no longer in business.

With the distributing system disorganized, Ryger said, butter prices became vulnerable and declined as much as 10 cents a pound in a single day. He reported it is going to take some time to reestablish market outlets.

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From Wilmington (Del.) Journal-Every Evening, Feb. 7 -

SUGAR PROSPECTS - Editorial - In the new Congress sugar rationing, along with other controls left over from the war, faces a highly uncertain future. In addition to the growing sentiment for abolition of remaining controls, there is the possibility that Congress may kill them indirectly by refusing to vote additional funds to OPA for their enforcement.

This general confusion makes it difficult to say how much importance to attach to the OPA order validating a new ration stamp, good for 10 pounds of sugar, on April 1.

There is one definite gain which housewives can count on as a result of this announcement. The new stamp has been validated one month earlier than was planned. This means that the current five-pound-per-person ration can be used up in three months instead of being stretched thin over four.

Outside of this, however, the new ration leaves the home sugar situation pretty much in doubt. The April 1 stamp will be good for 10 pounds instead of five but this is offset by the announcement that no canning stamps will be issued this year.

However, prospects are bright. OPA officials say their "best guess" is that housewives will receive 35 pounds per person in 1947.

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From Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser, Feb. 4 -

FERTILIZER PRODUCTION RISES, BUT U.S. DEMAND KEEPS PACE - The supply of fertilizer for the United States is expected to reach an all-time high this fiscal year and will be more than double the 1935-39 average of prewar consumption. While fertilizer production in the United States of fertilizers for use in the U. S. has been steadily increasing, the demand has been increasing rapidly than the production. This information was developed by Senator John Sparkman and Congressman George Grant, of Alabama, who were appointed on a committee by the Alabama delegation in Congress.

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From New York Times, Feb. 14 -

AID TO MEXICAN CATTLE: GROUP APPROVES BILL TO HELP END FOOT, MOUTH DISEASE THERE-Washington-The House Agriculture Committee today approved legislation to enable the Agriculture Department to aid Mexico in eradicating all outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

Chairman Clifford R. Hope, Republican, of Kansas, told a reporter he will take the bill before the House immediately and will urge swift action.

The legislation would limit to Mexico, participation by the United States in cooperation with foreign governments in stamping out the deadliest animal infection known to veterinary science.

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LIES HELD SECRET IN SUGAR FRAUD: FALSE STATEMENTS OBTAINED DOUBLE RATION COURT HEARS-George Long, former manager of the Pure Rock Mineral Springs Corp. of Ellenville, N.Y. testified in Federal Court yesterday that false statements in the corporation's application to the Office of Price Administration had enabled it to get double the sugar to which it was entitled.

The corporation and its former president, Harold Gottfried, of 4671 Fieldston Road, the Bronx, are on trial on an indictment alleging that false statements were made to the OPA on the amount of sugar used by the corporation in the manufacture of soft drinks during the base period in 1941.

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AGRICULTURE GAINS IN MOST OF EUROPE: FIGURES SHOWING LARGE ADVANCE IN SUGAR BEET HARVEST SEEN AS A GOOD AUGURY-Despite terrific handicaps European agriculture is staging a remarkable comeback even though food shortages are still the number one problem of the Continent. This is indicated in estimates of European beet-sugar production, a good indicator of agricultural productivity, released yesterday.

The survey of production conditions, made by the statistical firm of F. O. Licht and made public by the Lamborn Sugar Market Report, shows that generally there has been a very considerable increase in sugar beet production. With the exception of Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Ireland and possibly Sweden, a higher sugar output is expected everywhere in view of conditions up to the end of last December.

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10% PRICE DECLINE IS SEEN IN LUMBER: RITTER FORECASTS DROP BEFORE END OF FIRST QUARTER DUE TO RESISTANCE OF YARDS-Lumber prices will register an overall drop of 10 percent before the end of the first quarter, Fred W. Ritter, secretary manager of the New York Lumber Trades Association, predicted yesterday. He declared that the reduction will be forced because yards all over the country propose to stock substitute materials rather than pay "unreasonable" mill prices.

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From New York Times, Feb. 14 -

AVERAGE PRICES OF FOOD UP 1.7%-Washington-Price advances in most commodity groups raised average primary market prices by 1 percent during the week ended Feb. 8, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau's index of commodity prices in primary markets reached 141.7 percent of the 1926 average, 0.6 percent above the previous post war peak in mid-January and 32.3 percent above early February, 1946.

Average prices of foods moved contrary to the downward trend of recent weeks with a rise of 1.7 percent, and farm products were up 0.4 percent. Bad weather throughout the country limited shipments and current demand was stimulated by fears of possible crop damage.

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COTTON EXPORT SUBSIDY HALVED AS FUNDS SHRINK-AP-Washington-The Government tonight cut the export subsidy rate on American cotton from 4 to 2 cents a pound, effective tonight. The subsidy is being paid to enable exporters to sell American cotton in world markets in all competition with foreign cotton.

The cut was announced by the Department of Agriculture which explained that a growing shortage of funds made it necessary.

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From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, Feb. 14 -

FORWARD PRICING SUGGESTED TO SPUR SHIFTS IN CROPS-Washington-Critical of the existing farm support price program, the National Planning Association today advanced several alternative proposals for preventing a future collapse of agricultural prices.

Before farmers risk abundance NPA said in a pamphlet on the subject, "they must have some assurance of strong consumer buying power, some kind of income support, and assistance in shifting to those crops that are really needed."

Neither the old AAA nor the present Steagall price supports have the effect of shifting production in the desired directions, it was pointed out. A system of "forward pricing" was discussed as one method of encouraging a shift from unwanted to wanted farm products and of aiding farmers in planning ahead.

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From Wall Street Journal, Feb. 14 -

AAR SAYS DISTRIBUTION OF FREIGHT CARS AMONG RAILROADS IS EQUITABLE-Washington-The Association of American Railroads has denied charges that freight cars are inequitably distributed.

Warren C. Kendall, chairman of the A.A.R. car service division, yesterday told members of a Senate Subcommittee studying the freight car shortage that there was "reasonable equity" in the geographical distribution of cars during 1946.

Mr. Kendall's statement came as an answer to charges made by western shippers earlier in the hearings. They contended that eastern railroads preferred to pay the daily charge on western rail cars and have the use of them, rather than returning the cars to their owners.

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From Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal, Feb. 6 -

'SOYBEANS CAN YIELD ON POOR COTTON LAND' - "Soybeans represent a prospective use for some of our second-grade land that is too hazardous for cotton."

This evaluation of one of the Mid-South's newest crops was made yesterday by C. R. Sayre, superintendent of the Delta Branch Experiment Station at Stoneville, Miss., in an address before the Southern Regional Soybean Conference.

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From Chicago Tribune, Feb. 6 -

A POLITICAL FENCE - Editorial - No fewer than eight congressmen have introduced bills for the construction of a fence along the 2,000 miles of this country's southern border. A right of way 60 feet wide would be acquired. The cost of the project and a year's maintenance is put at \$2,600,000. As everybody familiar with the natural history of federal public works knows, the actual cost will be much higher if this crazy scheme is approved. First estimates should always be written up at least 50 per cent.

The excuse for the fence is the threat of hoof and mouth disease. Some Mexican cattle are infected and it is said that the disease will spread into this country unless a fence is erected to permit an effective quarantine.

It's a fine excuse and the only trouble with it is the fact that if herds in this country are going to be contaminated, the damage will have been done long before the fence is built. The real reason for the appropriation is not publicly avowed but it is plain enough; the desire of southwestern congressmen, particularly Texans, to spend a lot of federal money in their districts.

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From Miami (Fla.) News, Feb. 5 -

HAVE A POTATO? - Editorial - Twenty million bushels of potatoes, which the taxpayers of the United States bought from growers under the government's farm price support program are going to be destroyed. Millions and millions of other bushels of potatoes so bought are going to be given or sold at a song for various and sundry more or less useful purposes.

These surplus millions of bushels came about because the government guarantee of 90 per cent of parity.

The same sort of thing will be happening in other crops this year and next year, for the government price guarantees will hold good for two years after the formal end of the war.

It is not beyond the realm of possibility that the support program will cost the taxpayers \$2,000,000,000 in 1947 and 1948. In fact, Secretary of Agriculture Anderson cites that figure.

The farm bloc in congress might well give a little thought to the prospect and take appropriate steps to protect the taxpayers from a severe rooking. If they permit that to happen, it might be there will be a revulsion of public opinion which will scrap the whole price support system.

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From Hartford (Conn.) Times, Feb. 5 -

POTATO SURPLUS - Editorial - Agriculturally, the war is not only over but some peacetime conditions have so fully returned that surplus potatoes are being dumped by the thousands of bushels. Dumping surplus potatoes is nothing new but when the "spuds" represent \$2.05 per bushel of government price-supporting money, the wastage takes on public interest.

In Connecticut only bad potatoes have been disposed of so far via the garbage route. But the government has accepted heavy loss in disposing of many thousand bushels of \$2.05 potatoes to farmers for about 12 cents a bushel for livestock feed.

In Maine, where the surplus runs into huge figures, the glut has provoked a challenging question as to the wisdom of the high supporting price which has prevailed under the Steagall Law. One effect has been that the Production and Marketing Administration of the Federal Department of Agriculture has ordered a cut in acreage for 1947.

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From Denver (Colo.) Post, Feb. 5 -

LAND FOR ALL TIME - Editorial - The land that grows America's food knows no party lines. It's neither Republican land, or Democratic land. It "really belongs to the nation, and it's the farmer's job to see that future generations fall heir to good land." Saving the soil therefore is just as important to the city man as to the farmer.

Those statements came out of the first day's sessions here of the Colorado Association of Soil Conservation Districts. They reflect the rapidly improving social outlook of the users of the soil. The "black blizzard" of the '30s sharpened all thinking on soil conservation. Land owners want no more such disasters to sweep the basis of their livelihood to the four winds. And they are looking beyond their own tenure on the land and realizing that true conservation means conserving for all time.

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From San Diego (Calif.) Union, Feb. 4 -

REVIVING THE TARIFF ISSUE - Editorial - Further indications that the long moribund tariff may project itself as a major topic of controversy in congress appear in the recent testimony of Charles W. Holman, secretary of the National Cooperative Milk Producers Federation, before the house reciprocity information committee. Mr. Holman expressed a fear that the lowering of duties on agricultural imports would impose hardships on American farmers, sacrificing their interests on behalf of industrialist who would gain in exports to countries enjoying low tariffs on products shipped to the United States.

The dairy spokesman said:

"It is a futile and illogical policy for the Department of Agriculture to set up huge production goals for our farmers, while the State Department is allowed to dynamite farm prices by duty slashes that invite imports of low-cost agricultural products. It is a policy that inevitably will shrink and shrivel the production and buying capacity of the American farmer."

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, Feb. 17 -

FARM PROSPERITY PUT AT PEAK IN '46—CONFERENCE BOARD ANALYSIS FORECASTS LOWER PRICES ARE NOW IN PROSPECT—American farmer prosperity hit its peak in 1946, according to an analysis of the outlook for agriculture for the coming year released yesterday by the National Industrial Conference Board. Lower prices for 1947 are predicted officially and unofficially despite heavy domestic and foreign demand and short supplies, it said.

Prior to World War II, the analysis points out, the best farm year was 1919 when net income amounted to about \$9,250,000,000. It rose to \$13,250,000,000 in 1945 and in 1946 climbed to \$14,700,000,000. Increased productivity during the war years pushed gross income up 156 percent while production expenses increased 102 percent.

The agriculture balance sheet showed that resources devoted to growing farm crops and raising livestock totaled nearly \$102,000,000,000 at the beginning of 1946, the report states. More than half of all the assets owned by farmers was in real estate, which compares with 1940 when farm land accounted for almost two thirds of all assets. By Nov. 1, 1946, the value of farm real estate had risen until it was within 11 percent of the 1920 high.

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FARMERS UNION URGES SPEED ON TRADE FACTS—Washington—The National Farmers Union urged today the speedy making of reciprocal trade pacts with foreign countries "to restore foreign markets for American agriculture."

In a brief for the State Department's Committee on Reciprocity Information, Russell Smith, legislative secretary of the farmers' group, declared that the success of the proposed International Trade Organization "hangs upon the success of trade agreements negotiations."

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WHEAT LACK HITS RATIONS FOR ITALY—Rome—Dwindling of wheat supplies has obliged the Italian Government to reduce the amount of wheat rations for the period of Feb. 20 to the end of this month, it was made known today. By March 1, it is hoped, importations from Argentina and other sources will have reestablished the situation.

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From N. Y. Journal of Commerce, Feb. 17 -

TO SHIP PALM OIL—Belgium has agreed to ship 65,000,000 pounds of palm oil, essential to tin plate production, to the United States during 1947, Omer Herrmann, United States representative to the fats and oils branch, International Emergency Food Council, said yesterday.

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Farm Digest 325-47

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, Feb. 17 -

GERMAN POTASH DUE HERE IN MAY-Washington-The Government hopes to arrange for delivery by the end of May of about 25,000 tons potash, K<sub>2</sub>O, available for export to the United States from the Soviet zone of German.

Negotiations for financing the purchase of this tonnage are in progress and the outlook is favorable for their successful conclusion soon, a Department of Agriculture spokesman said.

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DECLINE IN COST OF LIVING SLOWED DOWN-The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the index of retail prices of "living essentials commonly bought by moderate income families"--usually identified as its cost of living index--declined moderately from Dec. 15 to Jan. 15. The drop was 3/10 of 1 point and brought the index down to 153.

Retail food prices in large cities dropped 1 percent from mid-December to mid-January for the second straight month. A seasonal decline of 10 percent in egg prices, contributed heavily to the decline in average food costs. Prices of dairy products dropped about 5 percent, and fats and oils averaged 2½ percent lower on Jan. 15 than on Dec. 15. The food price index for Jan. 15, 1947, is estimated at about 184 percent of the 1935-39 averages.

The decline in the BLS cost of living index was smaller than anticipated. Moreover, the reversal in food prices that followed the extreme January-February cold wave in large parts of the country will sharply limit any drop in the index for the Jan. 15 to Feb. 15 period.

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SUGAR -The sugar rationing program is definitely safe until March 4. Meanwhile, sugar men believe that Congress will enact legislation to continue the program as requested by the President. European beet sugar production in 1946-47 will be substantially higher and beet plantings in the spring will rise.

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PRIVATE IMPORTATION OF BLACKSTRAP MOLASSES-Washington-The Office of Temporary Controls announced it now will permit private importation of blackstrap molasses from Puerto Rico for any purposes and that import licenses will be issued under the agency's import order.

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DU PONT REDUCES PRICES ON NYLON YARNS-Wilmington-E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. Inc., cut nylon yarn prices an average of 6 percent effective today. The reductions range from five cents to \$1 a pound through the entire list of nylon types produced.

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From Los Angeles (Calif.) Times, Feb. 4 -

CITRUS CROPS DAMAGE SLIGHT - Los Angeles County citrus crops were but little damaged by the low temperatures of January, according to Harold J. Ryan, county agricultural commissioner.

Ryan said yesterday that some harm may have been received in unprotected Valencia groves that will come to light later. The successive cold waves were not of long enough duration to injure mature navels or next season's Valencias, however.

Some areas reported tender foliage killed and "button" lemons damaged. In general, all crops were slowed in maturing by the cold, with the result that variants in quality and yield may become apparent at a later date.

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From Waterloo (Iowa.) Courier, Feb. 4 -

CROP PRODUCTION CONTROL - Editorial - The Department of Agriculture has authorized the destruction of 20,000,000 bushels of low-grade and rotting potatoes which were stored under the government price-support plan.

Even this fantastic waste, however, does not eliminate the potato surplus which is estimated at 45,000,000 bushels as a result of enormous crops during 1946.

It may be that this appalling waste was unavoidable and that no one is to be blamed. Under the war psychology of recent years, the stress has been upon maximum production and the individual farmer had no reason to anticipate this sudden glut. The destruction of so much food here seems particularly deplorable in view of inadequate supplies abroad; but relief officials say that it would be too costly to ship potatoes to needy countries.

But, if we mark off the cost of 20,000,000 bushels of potatoes as a war expense, the experience should serve as a warning of impending agricultural surpluses in other crops. The public is committed to government aid to agriculture; but experience has shown that such programs must be matched by compulsory production control.

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From Flint (Mich.) Journal, Feb. 4 -

SUGAR PROBE - Editorial - Predictions are being made that, among other things, Congress intends to open all-out investigation of the sugar shortage. It is believed that the probe probably will be made by the House Agriculture Committee investigating food problems.

Republicans, according to the prognosticators, are determined to jump into the middle of the sugar shortage which they claim has resulted from New Deal bungling.

Rep. August Andresen, of Minnesota, believes -- and says he will prove -- that per capita sugar consumption in the United States can be boosted by 15 pounds this year. He says that industrial sugar users could and should get 25 per cent more annually. Other foodstuffs, including fats and oils, also will come under Rep. Andresen's scrutiny, it is said.

From Jacksonville Florida Times-Union, Feb. 10 -

A DEVELOPMENT OF MUCH IMPORTANCE TO SOUTH - Editorial - Announcement by the United States Department of Agriculture that funds have been made available by Federal and State agencies to employ 278 more Negro Agricultural Extension Service workers in the South is news of great economic and social importance to this section.

The announcement reveals that \$2,218,209 will be spent this year as compared with \$1,036,668 in 1942, which represents an increase of 114 per cent over the five-year period. The increase enables the Extension Service to employ 817 demonstration workers instead of the 539 engaged in aiding the colored farm people five years ago.

Results of the efforts of these specialists should go a long way toward making the colored farmers more independent, and help materially in the general program aimed at strengthening the economic position of the colored people generally. Economic strength and increased self-reliance that will enable them to lean less on the white man are among their most urgent needs.

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From Phoenix Arizona Republic, Feb. 6 -

SURPLUS FACED IN FARM LABOR - With 95 percent of the state's cotton crop picked, Arizona faces the possibility of a surplus of farm labor until the spring vegetable harvest, according to Roy R. Young, state supervisor.

Young said yesterday that more than 10,000 migrant workers entered the state in the last four months of 1946 — the majority to pick cotton. He estimated that 5,000 migrant workers remain today, in addition to 1,734 Mexican Nationals still employed on Arizona farms. A poll of migrant workers indicated at least 2,000 would prefer to remain here if they can find work.

"As the next few months are generally a slack period in farm employment, the Farm Labor Bureau is offering its full facilities toward placing these workers," Young said.

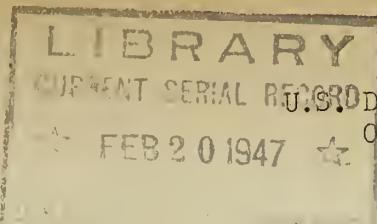
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From Greenville (S.C.) News, Feb. 7 -

THE SOUTH AND ITS JOBS - Editorial - Secretary Krug is one of the latest to utter some apparently ominous words on the great loss of jobs that may be suffered by farm workers in the South as a result of increasing mechanization of cotton production.

But Mr. Krug is more conservative than some of the prophets of unsettling economic readjustment in this section through this cause. He puts the total number of cotton state workers facing "job upheaval" prospects at two million, but stretches the time period over twenty years.

Well, in that time, the South should be able to develop a whole lot more job opportunities in industry and commerce; and besides, it's probably safe to predict that there will be much greater activity on Southern farms in producing other things besides cotton. The bigger national population and its greater ability to buy more food undoubtedly spells important things for Southern agriculture in the coming years.

DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For February 18, 1947)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION  
Washington 25, D.C.

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From New York Times, Feb. 18 -

ATTACK U.S. POLICY ON POTATO SUPPORT: GROWERS ASK END OF PROGRAM CREATING WASTEFUL SURPLUS—CONSIDER COUNTER PLAN-The Government should desist from a farm price support program that tends to create wasteful surpluses, leaders of the nation's potato industry said yesterday. Potato growers do not believe taxpayers should be forced to pay more than \$100,000,000 a year to maintain an artificial level of potato production, they said.

Growers met yesterday in panel discussion at the Forty third Annual Meeting of the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association to discuss ways and means of meeting problems created by huge war surpluses, record production and declining consumption of potatoes.

Three possible solutions to the government problem are now under discussion by the growers, it was revealed. Considerable support was expressed for a market agreement among growers themselves in order to assure marketing rather than production control. Other suggestions are changing present regulations from a fixed price support program to a flexible schedule of prices based on fluctuations of production, and complete marketing control establishing fixed market quotas on an historic basis within the limits of which farmers must sell. A final resolution adopting one of these plans is expected before the panel discussions are closed tomorrow.

SEES WORLD TRADE KEY TO PROSPERITY: HARRIMAN TELLS CHICAGO GROUP HIGH INDUSTRY, FARM OUTPUT DEPEND ON ITS EXPANSION-Chicago-Expanded world markets are essential to the continued high level of industrial and agricultural production in the United States, Secretary of Commerce W. Averell Harriman told the Chicago World Trade Conference today.

1. Foreign demand for American products is "tremendous" limited only by the amount of United States productive surplus and the ability of other countries to pay. 2. He does not "foresee a depression." 3. The Government hopes to establish stability in world trade through reciprocal trade agreements with other countries and establishment of the International Trade Organization with its objective of world trade expansion on a multilateral basis.

HOTELS, CLUBS URGED TO CONSERVE ON FOOD-The responsibility of hotels and private clubs in conserving food supplies to assist the Government's program of feeding peoples abroad and needy American families was stressed yesterday by John L. Hennessy, chairman of the board of the Hotel Statler Company, Inc. He spoke at the convention of the Club Managers Association of America.

From New York Times, Feb. 18 -

FAMINE IMPERILING RUMANIA: U.S. IS RUSHING ARMY FOOD-Paris-A serious famine said to be threatening death to tens of thousands of persons now is in full sway in Rumania, according to diplomatic reports received here. (President Truman announced that sufficient United States Army food to aid 500,000 was being rushed to Moldavia, in northern Rumania.)

At the same time, there were increasing indications of a food shortage through the western and southwestern republics of the Soviet Union that were causing great hardship throughout the USSR and were being felt even in Moscow, where rations had been reduced in the ordinary State shops.

Apparently the famine conditions have been induced mainly by the 1946 drought, which hit the black earth belt running from the heart of Rumania as far east as the Volga Valley.

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From Wall Street Journal, Feb. 18 -

SPURTING GRAIN PRICES DON'T ALTER THE OUTLOOK FOR LOWER VALUES LATER THIS YEAR. -Pacemaker wheat, now some 32 cents a bushel over last month's low, is goaded by two price boosters. First, Government eagerness to buy for export amounts as European crop prospects darken. Second, the freight car scarcity keeps wheat on farms and in country elevators. Result: A hotter-and-hotter scramble between the Government and home users to snatch what grain is able to get to market.

Wheat in the country is still abundant. Prospects for this year's crops are the best ever. And, quite significantly, wheat for delivery next Sept. (in the futures market) is nearly 50 cents a bushel cheaper than March-delivery grain.

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CUBAN SUGAR GROWERS MAY GET A MORE BUSINESS REWARD FOR WAR SERVICE-The U.S. State Department thinks they deserve it. During the war, Philippine sugar was cut off, U.S. beet growers turned to other more profitable crops requiring less labor, and Cuba was left to make up the deficit. The Cubans rose to the occasion by boosting output from a prewar annual average of little more than three million tons to nearly six million this year.

In recognition of this service, the State Department will propose the island be given a larger share of the U.S. peacetime market. The proposal will be made as a counter move to the O'Mahoney bill, which seeks to give domestic cane and beet growers more of the home market at the expense of Cuba through juggling the complicated sugar quotas.

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WEED RESEARCH indicates Mexican fireweed (botanists call it "kochia") may provide feed insurance for dry years in the Great Plains country. South Dakota experimenters have found that this plant, considered a "weed" for 20 years, has nearly as much feed value as alfalfa. It thrives during drought.

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Burlington (Vt.) Free Press, Feb. 8 -

BANKERS MUST ASSIST FARMERS FOR THE FUTURE - "Build an economic foundation under farmers so they will be ready for any economic change in the future."

This advice was given by C. W. Bailey, president of the American Bankers' Association, to members of the Vermont Bankers' Association last night.

Saying that it was the duty of bankers to assist farmers, Bailey outlined a five-point program for assisting the farm group.

"Encourage them to build a balanced farming program," advised Bailey. "Agricultural prices may drop in the future - now is the time to get this foundation built."

Other recommendations to the bankers were to encourage the farmer to get out of debt now, to urge him to build up a financial reserve, to assist him in a soil conservation program, and to contribute to the education of farm youth, so the younger generation on the farms will not leave their homes to go into industry.

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JESNESS CALLS FARM SUBSIDY PLAN INADEQUATE - Government subsidies were called inadequate answers to the country's postwar agriculture problem Monday by Dr. O. B. Jesness, professor of agricultural economics at University Farm.

Dr. Jesness scored subsidization of farm products to maintain high price levels at opening sessions of the Minnesota Bankers conference at the University of Minnesota.

"I see no promise in a government price program that will benefit agriculture as much as continued high employment and high production in non-agricultural industries," Dr. Jesness declared.

The farmer needs nationwide prosperity to market all his products, he added. The farmer also relies on industry to produce many of the things he and his neighbors in rural America need to maintain and better their standard of living.

Dr. Jesness forecast continued high production from agriculture despite shrinking markets.

As a substitute for subsidies he suggested greater distribution of farm products among low income class peoples who need more fruits and vegetables in their diets and a continued international market for agriculture products.

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From Louisville (Ky.) Times, Feb. 5 -

TO THOSE WHO HAVE - Editorial - Is the nation getting ready for an Eat Another Potato Week this year? Twenty million bushels of the 1946 crop spoil and Representative Shafer, of Michigan, big potato-producing State, advances a plan for the consumption of an anticipated 100,000,000-bushel surplus.

He proposes that those who already eat enough bread and potatoes use four per cent of potato meal in wheat bread. It will taste so much better, he argues, that well-fed people will eat more bread and thus consume as much wheat flour as they do now. Representative Shafer follows the familiar pattern of social and economic endeavor. He wants those who are doing their share to do more, ignoring the untapped reservoir of assistance.

There are in the United States enough persons lacking sufficient nourishment to turn all surpluses into scarcity. But it's easier on the mental faculties, of course, to regard a social problem of underconsumption as an economic one of overproduction and ask those who have had enough to eat more.

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From Wheeling (W.Va.) News-Register, Feb. 9 -

OUR SUGAR SUPPLY - The estimated Cuban sugar crop for 1947-48 is 5,500 tons. This is an increase of some 1,500,000 tons over last year. A House investigation sub-committee "insists" that the United States take this entire increase for itself. That would give us 3,300,000 tons, and leave 2,200,000 for the other 26 nations in the international sugar pool for whom we buy in Cuba.

This would add 15 pounds to our per capita domestic quota bringing it up to 40 pounds. Industrial users would get a 33½ per cent boost in their allocations. And what about the rest of the world?

Rep. August Andresen of Minnesota, the sub-committee chairman, says that this windfall of sugar to the United States would be offset by an estimated increase of 1,183,000 tons in European production. But he admits that European consumption would still be below ours.

We keep remembering the glowing words about gallant France, gallant Belgium, gallant Norway, that have resounded through the halls of Congress. We keep recalling the expressions of pity and admiration that their citizens evoked from our congressmen.

But that was back in the days when these gallant people were fighting for their existence, not threatening to rob us of an extra spoon of sugar for our coffee.

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From Dallas Times-Herald - Feb. 3 -

WHERE QUARANTINE GIVES ONLY TEMPORARY PROTECTION - Editorial - The bars which have been raised against the shipment of cattle into this country from Mexico because of hoof and mouth disease recall the quarantines which have been applied to Texas because of tick fever.

Hoof and mouth disease is deadly and keeping it out of this country is essential to preservation of the cattle industry. When the disease is discovered, quarantine is justifiable.

However, as Secretary of Agriculture Anderson points out, a mere banning of live cattle is not a dependable safeguard against the disease. The germ can be brought across the border by other means.

Quarantine affords temporary, emergency protection, but the only permanent safeguard is conquest of the malady itself at the source. If Mexico is not in position to wage an effectual battle against the disease, it would seem that help from the United States would be in order.

Quite obviously, only such aid can be given as Mexico is willing to accept, for no campaign can be waged successfully without wholehearted, friendly collaboration between the two countries.

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From Atlanta Constitution, Feb. 8 -

DIVIDENDS IN REFORESTATION - Editorial - Unless stringent measures are adopted, either voluntarily or by government regulation, this country may soon find frame dwellings only a grim reminder of a national folly. And from the rate of timber consumption this situation is not a mere possibility for the far, far distant future. It is destined to come within the lifetimes of many who today are no longer young. There are 43 percent less saw timber in the forest today than in 1909, the Department of Agriculture says. That means landowner must replant at least twice as many trees as they now are replanting simply to retain the present lumber supply.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, Feb. 19 -

WORLD AGREEMENT ON WHEAT SOUGHT: PROPOSED PACT WOULD SPECIFY U.S. EXPORT FARM PRICE OF \$1 TO \$1.30 A BUSHEL-Washington-A proposed international wheat agreement, made public here today in anticipation of a conference in London on March 18, would guarantee to American growers an export market of about 80,000,000 bushels a year for the next four or five years at farm prices ranging approximately from \$1 to \$1.30 a bushel.

These were the high points of a preliminary draft of a detailed convention compiled by the International Wheat Council. To become effective the plan would have to be approved by the major wheat exporting nations and the principal importers. Since it would be in the form of a treaty, Congressional approval would be necessary to bind the United States.

PLAN WOULD LEAVE JAPANESE TEXTILES: REPORT ON REPARATIONS HAS NO PROPOSAL TO CUT INDUSTRY-Tokyo-No proposals to reduce Japan's textile industry are contained in the report of the War Department's special reparations mission, Clifford S. Strike, its chairman, told a press conference this afternoon.

FARM LEADER ASKS CLOSED SHOP BAN-Washington-Witnesses interested in agriculture joined before the House Committee on Education and Labor today a long line of critics of union practices.

H. L. Strobel, secretary of the Associated Farmers of California, asserted that unions, primarily the American Federation of Labor Teamsters Union, had carried on since 1934 "a well ordered program of attack against the farmer in California."

He contended, under questioning that "the Communist influence is there very definitely in some directions" and said that this "influence" was more common in the Congress of Industrial Organizations than in AFL unions.

He urged outlawing of the closed shop, which he characterized "as one of the most evil influences in our American life" and the secondary boycott and "hot cargo" practices by unions.

From Journal of Commerce, N.Y., Feb. 19 -

CANNERS ADVANCE CITRUS JUICE PRICES-The first definite rally in citrus juices occurred yesterday when some packers advanced their asking prices 7 7/8c to 10c a dozen for 2s, f.o.b. cannery, for grapefruit, orange and blended varieties. Segments were advanced 10c a dozen on fancy to the basis of \$1.60 for 2s, but broken was changed at \$1.40 per dozen.

From New York Journal of Commerce, Feb. 19 -

FRUIT, VEGETABLE GROUPS SEEK WIDER MARKETS: INCREASE IN CONSUMPTION SEEN OFFSETTING OUTPUT CURB NEEDS-Increased consumption, rather than substantial contraction in production, will enable the produce industry to readjust satisfactorily to peacetime operations, E. J. Blalock, president of the United Fruit and Vegetable Association said here yesterday.

The association has already launched a program to develop broader markets for fresh fruits and vegetables, operating through the recently organized association, Merchandising Institute. The group has also inaugurated a public relations and education program he revealed.

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EXPORT SUBSIDIES-When is an export subsidy good and when is it bad? The American cotton export subsidy was cut recently from 4c to 2c. Shortly thereafter news came of the initiation of a potato export subsidy program. Actually, of course, there is no contradiction between these two actions. In fact, the explanation is quite simple; Cotton supplies are getting short as the crop year progresses and foreign purchases are not being encouraged particularly at this time. On the other hand, potatoes are everywhere and any amount which can be sold to foreign countries would be just so much velvet.

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BRITISH DEMAND OFF WITH NEW SUBSIDY-Liverpool-Opinion in the cotton trade here freely predicted that the cut in the American export subsidy to 2c per pound will sharply decrease Cotton Control buying of United States growths.

At the same time, Southern shippers competed keenly to sell cotton against the April May shipment schedule, tending to ease the basis about 40 points. Control purchases, however, were on a limited scale.

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JANUARY COTTON USE UP SHARPLY-Washington-The Census Bureau reported today that cotton consumed during January totaled 947,036 bales of lint and 93,909 bales of linters. This compared with 774,177 bales of lint and 79,352 bales of linters consumed during December and 811,218 bales of lint and 96,735 bales of linters consumed during January 1946.

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From Wall Street Journal, Feb. 19 -

BUTTER FOOD PRICES: BUTTER, ON THE SKIDS, IS EXPECTED TO DRAG OTHER STAPLES DOWN-Chicago-Butter prices, already well down from a high post war peak and expected to take another dip before summer, will have a depressing effect on other food prices too. This influence extends in two directions:

On other dairy products. The prices of milk, cheese, ice cream and other items are all tied closely together. A decline in one encourages declines in the others.

On non-dairy farm products. Farmers grow what is most profitable.

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From Boston (Mass.) Christian Science Monitor, Feb 13 -

BIG DROP IN FARM PRICES SEEN BY HARVARD ECONOMIST - While farm prices may go down 15 to 20 per cent this year without a business recession, if a recession comes, they may drop as much as 40 per cent, Dr. John D. Black of Harvard, one of the leading farm economists of the country, said today.

"Farm prices always decline more than others," Dr. Black said. "If other prices decrease 15 per cent, farm prices can go down 40 per cent and still stand at 90 percent of parity, because they are now 30 per cent above that figure."

During the period immediately after price decontrol, the market overreached itself in running prices up, and they are now already going down a bit, he noted.

A minor factor for the future promises to be a decline in food buying. Many people have been spending more for food than their normal, because of not having other things to spend it on. When more of the products they really want are purchasable, demand for foodstuffs will lessen somewhat, and prices will fall off accordingly.

"The real break in farm prices, however, will not come until it begins to be fairly known what the 1947 crop will be," continued Dr. Black. "That will start to show itself early in August. If the crop is abundant, a substantial drop in food prices will result."

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From Chicago News, Feb. 10 -

SHUT BORDER, CATTLEMEN ASK TRUMAN - The National Joint Livestock Committee today urged that the Mexican border be closed to all traffic in a move to check the spread of hoof-and-mouth disease.

The nation's livestock herds are being imperiled by the spread of the disease from Mexico, the committee charged in a resolution addressed to President Truman, Secretary of State Marshall and other national leaders.

The committee, representing 134 American livestock groups, also passed resolutions urging:

That a woven wire fence be built along the Mexican border from California to the Gulf of Mexico; that such a fence be patrolled; that a new treaty covering livestock movements be negotiated with Mexico; that financial aid be given to Mexico to help stamp out hoof-and-mouth disease there.

The threatened spread of the disease also stirred Chicago's packingtown today.

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From Fort Worth (Tex.) Star-Telegram, Feb. 10 -

LIVESTOCK QUARANTINE - Editorial - It is easy to urge quarantines against the foot and mouth disease. It is not so easy to devise and enforce quarantines which will keep that disease out of the United States.

The only way to protect livestock of the United States against the foot and mouth disease is to eliminate it from Mexico; and that poses difficult problems. Mexico is a sovereign nation. It can not be forced to slaughter and destroy all the livestock which develop the affliction. Even were the United States to pay the costs of such slaughter, it is doubtful if Mexico and her people would agree thereto. Farmers of that country use oxen for plowing. Were these animals destroyed and their value paid in full, their owners would be unable to replace them and they could not till their farms without them.

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From Des Moines (Iowa) Register, Feb. 11 -

WASTED POTATOES AND PARITY PRICES - Editorial - The bumper 1946 potato crop gave us our first postwar farm surplus problem. Though the national income totalled 164 billion dollars last year and consumer demand for food was the strongest in history, 90 per cent of parity prices for potatoes was too high for consumers to take all the crop. Lots of potatoes went to waste.

Now government administrators face another "surplus," to be created by the law which makes 90 per cent of parity prices mandatory. This time it is likely to be eggs, which already have dipped below support levels in recent months.

This prospective supply of eggs isn't apt to move into consumption at the mandatory support prices. The government will have some "surplus" eggs to worry about. Export demand will be strong, but probably not strong enough to take the entire excess. The government will either have to "dump" eggs abroad by selling them to foreign consumers below our own prices, or it will have to distribute eggs at below-market prices to low income consumers in this country -- or it will let eggs be wasted as with potatoes.

Fortunately, a high level of consumer demand probably will prevent other, serious "surpluses" from being created by the Steagall amendment this year.

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From Greenville (S.C.) News, Feb. 12 -

TURKEY SURPLUS - Editorial - The Department of Agriculture is concerned over the large stocks of cold storage turkey and is cooperating with consumer outlets to move them.

At the first of the year turkeys in storage totaled 130,000,000 pounds, or 45,000,000 pounds more than would be consumed ordinarily by October.

The new turkey crop is expected to be somewhat smaller than the last one. Fewer fowls going to market together with more general consumption on the part of the public should move the surplus in time. But in this connection the producers and dealers handling turkeys might well keep in mind the prospect that consumption may not reach altogether satisfactory levels until prices come down within the reach of more individuals whose food budgets are of necessity restricted to moderate-priced items.

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From Chicago Sun, Feb. 12 -

ECONOMY AT CHILDREN'S EXPENSE - Editorial - Sweet are the uses of economy, especially to the congressman charming a taxpayer's ear. But economy is not yet one of the eternal verities, nor is it a goal to be sought at the expense of children's welfare. That will be the result unless Congress appropriates new funds for the school lunch program.

Last Spring, when the Senate and House were passing the permanent school lunch bill back and forth, the upper chamber wisely voted a \$100 million appropriation for the fiscal year ending next June 30. The House whittled the sum to \$75 million.

The result of that gesture is just around the corner. The federal contribution to the program which assures a hot meal at noontime to school children will be exhausted in Illinois about March 10. State funds will run out soon thereafter. Similar results are expected in other states.

The hungry kids behind the yards and in other underprivileged areas will be the first to feel the blow if the funds are allowed to expire.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For Feb. 20, 1947)

FEB 25 1947 ★

AL RECORDS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, Feb. 20 -

HOOF DISEASE STIRS U.S.-MEXICO ACTION: CATTLE AILMENT BELOW BORDER EXPECTED TO BE SUBJECT OF TRUMAN TALKS ON TRIP-Washington-The foot and mouth disease in cattle, which has complicated commercial relations with other countries for many years, has become for the first time a matter of joint emergency action with next-door neighbor Mexico.

It is a subject so serious in the economy of both nations that it almost inevitably will enter into conversations between President Truman and President Aleman in Mexico next month, Guy W. Ray, chief of the Division of Mexican Affairs, State Department, said today.

Dr. B. T. Simms, chief of the Bureau of Animal Husbandry, Department of Agriculture, said that no outbreak in this country "involved anything like the number" of cattle affected now in Mexico.

Former Representative Richard Kleberg of Texas, whose gigantic Kings Ranch, close to the border, is threatened, told of seeing in Mexico City infected cattle "right in the slaughter pens with the others, and dogs trotting back and forth through the pens."

Mr. Kleberg declared: "Our folks have been too damned reticent in attempting to sell Mexico on the importance of going to war against the disease as the best good neighbor policy we could advocate."

The National Wool Growers Convention called the Mexican outbreak "the most serious menace to the livestock industry and economic life of the United States (except the two World Wars) that has existed in this country in the lifetime of any citizen."

EGG PRICE SUPPORT STIRS CITY ACTION: DUNAIF BACKS DEALERS' APPEAL FOR CHANGE IN U.S. PROGRAM TO PROTECT CONSUMERS-Backing of the city Department of Markets for the plea of local egg dealers for a change in the Government's egg price support program was indicated yesterday by Deputy Markets Commissioner Arthur Dunaif. Mr. Dunaif told fifty egg merchants at a meeting in New York Mercantile Exchange that the city would seek modification of any program that meant artificially high egg prices for New York consumers.

Alfred Rich, business manager of the Butter and Egg Merchants Association, said the support program, which guarantees poultrymen an average 33 cents a dozen eggs at the source, gave Western producers a higher price than they could get by shipping their eggs East. The result would be, he said, to force Eastern prices to an artificial level or to create a scarcity here which would, in turn, force prices upward.

The meeting, attended by representatives of various trade levels, adopted a resolution calling on Congress and the Department of Agriculture to modify the egg price support program. A committee of five men will take the resolution to Washington today.

From New York Times, Feb. 20 -

HOUSE HEARING SET ON WOOL SUBSIDY: AGRICULTURAL SUBCOMMITTEE TO TAKE UP GRANGER MEASURE FOR 2-YEAR PROGRAM--Washington--a new subsidy program for domestically produced wool will be considered by a House Agriculture subcommittee March 4.

The legislation by Representative Granger, Democrat, of Utah, would provide for price support for two years at 90 percent of the comparable price, which is the average for the 1934-39 period.

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From New York Journal of Commerce, Feb. 20 -

EXTENSION OF CCC DUE FOR HEARINGS--Washington--Public hearings on a proposed two year extension of the Commodity Credit Corp. scheduled to start Monday, will open the Senate Agriculture Committee's consideration of pending farm legislation.

Committee members told newsmen today the hearings will be on a bill by Senator Bushfield (Rep. S.D.) proposing extension of the CCC until June 30, 1949. It is due to expire next June 30.

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SUGAR USE OFF--Sugar deliveries at 481,818 short tons, raw value, were 33,000 tons under a year ago, the smaller volume reflecting lack of ration evidence. Potentially, however, demand for sugar is heavy and if controls were to end a shortage would soon develop. No prospect of rationing termination is seen despite the assertion of an OPA official that it would if UPA, for lack of funds, were to cease operations.

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From Wall Street Journal, Feb. 20 -

COTTON TEXTILE PRICES THREATEN TO REPEAT HUMPTY DUMPTY FALL--The most nervous Humpty Dumpty atop the high wall of inflated prices today is cotton cloth.

This particular Humpty Dumpty's section of the wall is nearly three times as lofty as in 1939. Open throttle production rips like a buzz saw at its underpinnings. Housewives and retailers hammer it viciously with price resistance.

A fall is indicated. It may be painful for Humpty Dumpty, but it will be a sweet sight to Mr. Consumer. Mr. Consumer works and sleeps in cotton cloth.

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CANADA REPORTS FIND OF FIRST POTASH DEPOSITS--Regina--Discovery of the first Canadian source of potash in southern Saskatchewan was disclosed here by Resources Minister J. L. Phelps.

Mr. Phelps announced that a deposit was found last July by the Saskatchewan Resources Department 100 miles northwest of Saskatoon in the Unity Oil Field. He called it Canada's most important mineral find in 20 years.

He added that commercial production of potash would "revolutionize" agriculture in Canada. The Dominion has been importing about \$4 million worth of potash annually at an average cost of \$40 a ton.

From Omaha (Neb.) World Herald, Feb. 11 -

CATTLE PLAGUE SPREAD SEEN - American cattlemen, are alarmed over the spread of foot and mouth disease in Mexico.

They are trying to do something about it through the obvious and ponderous route of international relationships. This required co-ordination of the State Department and Department of Agriculture with the public officials of Mexico.

What they hope to do is persuade the Mexican Government to eradicate the disease in Mexico. That would require slaughter and burial of all cattle infected with or exposed to the disease. That probably would require expenditure of some American funds.

P. O. Wilson, secretary-manager of the National Livestock Producers Association, said here last week that as long as foot and mouth disease exists in Mexico, there is no sure way of keeping it out of the United States.

If it gets into United States herds it will be costly. It will increase American farmers' costs of producing beef.

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From Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal, Feb. 14 -

SUBSIDY CUT IN HALF ON COTTON EXPORTS; MEMPHIANS SHOCKED; SHIPPERS UNANIMOUSLY PREDICT NEW RATE WILL SHARPLY CURTAIL TRADE - The 4-cent-a-pound export subsidy, which has been instrumental in moving some 4,000,000 bales of surplus American cotton to overseas markets since its inception some 30 months ago, was slashed in half -- to 2 cents a pound -- by the Department of Agriculture yesterday.

Announcement of reduction in the subsidy was received with shocked surprise by Memphis cotton men. Predictions were unanimous that the new subsidy rate would curtail future exports sharply, because of the great difference in price between American and foreign cotton with which it competes.

It also was pointed out that the announcement may have a salutary effect upon the amount of cotton planted this season since farmers, faced with possible overproduction because of the loss of export markets, may turn to soybeans, corn, wheat and other feed and food crops instead.

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From Detroit (Mich.) Free Press, Feb. 13 -

POTATO BREAD CRUSADE GAINS FEDERAL BACKING - Washington - Paul W. Shafer (R., Mich.) reported progress in his one-man crusade to teach Americans to eat potato bread.

The Department of Agriculture, he told the House of Representatives, has volunteered to get up a campaign to educate every baker in the superior virtues of potato flour.

The use of potato "culture," to make potato flour, to mix with wheat flour, to make bread, Shafer contends, turns out a machine-age version of the "old fashioned kind of bread mother used to make."

Some enthusiastic bakers are even going to try to use potato flour in baking cakes. If this works, Shafer promised to serve potato bread and potato pastry from Kalamazoo to members of Congress.

Michigan is one of the big potato raising states. There is a surplus of potatoes and agriculture experts figure it's likely to last a long time. Mixing potato flour with wheat flour to make bread, Shafer says, would solve the potato surplus.

From St. Paul (Minn.) Dispatch, Feb. 10 -

POTATO ALLOTMENTS - Editorial - The action of the Department of Agriculture in cutting the 1947 potato planting allotment 152,000 acres below an earlier announced goal of 2,669,800 acres is a timely effort to avoid another potato surplus which amounted to 100 million bushels. This surplus is likely to cost the Department of Agriculture 80 million dollars.

Under a legal commitment to support grower prices at not less than 90 per cent of parity, the department is removing the surplus from commercial channels. Potato growers will get full support prices for any surplus dumped or diverted to noncommercial uses such as this school lunch program, a project which has absorbed millions of bushels of fruit and vegetables during the past decade.

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From Des Moines (Iowa.) Register, Feb. 13 -

GREEDY SNIPERS ON THE SUGAR FRONT - Editorial - Some congressmen are playing a dangerous form of partisan politics in connection with the sugar program. At the very time when leading statesmen of both parties are attempting to present the world with a United States foreign policy that is really united, these snipers are attempting to discredit our role in world sugar allocations. They complain that the Department of Agriculture has created a "disastrous sugar shortage" by allocating too much to other countries. More New Deal bungling by do-gooders, they say.

At the meeting of the sugar committee of the International Emergency Food Council in Washington recently, United States sugar requirements for 1947 were stated at 6.8 million tons. In prewar years we normally consumed 6.7 million tons. The United States population has increased since that time, so per capita sugar supplies are slightly less, but even so these figures hardly look like a "disastrous sugar shortage."

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From Albany (N.Y.) Knickerbocker News, Feb. 11 -

BUTTER PROBE REJECTED BY ASSEMBLY - Although four Republicans lined up with the Democrats, the top-heavy GOP majority in the Assembly last night doomed a proposed legislative investigation of butter market rigging.

The Dairymen's League Cooperative and four of its officers recently were fined a total of \$29,000 in Federal Court on their pleas of guilty to charges that they manipulated the butter market to support milk prices.

By a vote of 89 to 42 the Assembly defeated a motion by Democratic Assemblyman Lawrence P. Murphy of Brooklyn to force from committee for a floor vote his resolution providing for an inquiry.

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From Great Falls (Mont.) Tribune, Feb. 11 -

BILL TO PLACE TAX ON OLEO DIES IN HOUSE - Helena - Legislation to establish a 15-cent a pound tax on oleomargarine and repeal the present license fee for distributors of "imitation dairy products" apparently is dead for the current legislative session. The bill, which had the backing of dairy and creamery interests of the state, was introduced by the house dairy committee but was referred to the committee on revenue and taxation, which reported it unfavorably.

DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
 914 (For Feb. 21, 1947)

LITERARY  
 CURRENT SERIAL RECORD

★ FEB 25 1947 ★

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 OFFICE OF INFORMATION  
 Washington 25, D.C.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, Feb. 21 -

PARLEY IS CALLED TO SEEK MEANS TO OBTAIN 10,000 NEW BOX CARS A MONTH TO RELIEVE SHORTAGE-Washington-(AP)-A conference of industrialists and Government officials was called today for next Wednesday in an attempt to work out a plan for obtaining 10,000 new boxcars a month to relieve the critical shortage.

Senator Clyde M. Reed, Republican, of Kansas, chairman of a Senate commerce subcommittee which has been holding hearings on the shortage, called the conference. Later he and the other subcommittee members, Senators Francis J. Myers, Democrat, of Pennsylvania, and Homer E. Capehart, Republican, of Indiana, conferred with President Truman and reported that he is in sympathy with the conference.

The President had told his news conference earlier that the situation is acute and the Administration is doing all it can to remedy it, but gave no details.

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 TRUMAN OPTIMISTIC ON CONTINUING OPA-Washington-President Truman expressed the view today that the Office of Price Administration would not be allowed to die through Congressional failure to appropriate necessary operating funds.

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 SAYS U.K. MILLS BACK TRADE CHARTER IDEA-London-Lancashire's cotton industry is solidly behind the principles expressed in the charter for international trade, Sir E. Raymond Streat, chairman of the Cotton Board, told the American Chamber of Commerce in London at a meeting today.

He added that practically all British industry was sympathetic to the aims of multilateral trade and willing to go along with the United States in pressing it.

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 HOOVER SAYS THIS IS WORST PERIOD IN EUROPE-London-Herbert Hoover arrived today from his food survey of Europe and told reporters, "This is the worst period in Europe in twenty-five years--and that applies to the British, too."

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 COMMODITY PRICES UP BY 1% IN WEEK; HIGHER COST OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS CITED AS CAUSE OF THE ADVANCE-Washington-Higher prices for agricultural commodities were primarily responsible for an advance of 1 percent in primary market prices during the week ended Feb. 15, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The bureau's index of commodity prices in primary markets reached a new post-war peak, 143.1 percent of the 1926 average, 1.6 percent above mid-January and 33.5 percent higher than the corresponding week last year.

Average market prices of farm products rose 2.1 percent during the week as bad weather again limited shipments of most products and demand continued high. On the average prices of farm products were 1.7 percent higher than a month ago and 28.9 percent above last year.

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Feb. 21 -

CATTLE DISEASE BILL NOW UP TO HOUSE-Washington - With leaders from cattle raising States pressing for early action, the House is this week expected to follow the lead of the Senate and pass a bill permitting the Department of Agriculture to co-operate with Mexico in exterminating the foot-and-mouth disease in that country.

However, since the House bill, in its present form, would extend the co-operation only to Mexico, while the bill passed by the Senate last Monday would extend it to all American countries, a conference may be necessary between the two chambers to iron out this difference.

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ANDERSON APPOINTS COTTON COMMITTEE-Washington - Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson today named an 11-man cotton advisory committee to review problems bearing on cotton and to suggest possible lines of research or marketing services to solve such problems.

The committee will assist USDA cotton officials and the national advisory committee in advancing work under the Research and Marketing Act of 1946, Secretary Anderson said.

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From the New York Wall Street Journal, Feb. 21 -

SUGAR BRANCH of the Agriculture Department is ready to snatch up sugar controls if O.P.A. dies. Home rationing will be dropped unless Congress grants more funds. Agriculture, which imports all sugar, will control price and distribution from the refiners' level. Rice will be similarly handled.

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WHEAT SQUEEZE may force U. S. into planned trade -- or out of world markets. We won't hold the trump cards at next month's world wheat confab in London. This conference hopes to divide world markets, set export and import quotas for nations, plan prices, and set controls on internal stocks and production.

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PURE FOOD probes will be renewed. The Food and Drug Administration readies a drive to set new Federal standards for cheese, salad dressings, canned corn, all frozen fruits. Also under study are nationwide standards for ice cream.

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From the New York Times, Feb. 21 -

URGES MORE SUGAR FOR HOME CANNING; ELIMINATION OR EASING OF CURB FOR PURCHASE ASKED BY PRODUCE PARLEY IN RESOLUTION - Elimination or modification of existing laws restricting the use of sugar in the home processing and use of fresh fruits was urged yesterday in the final resolutions of the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association at the closing session of its . . . meeting. The convention also commended Congress and the President for enactment and approval of the Agricultural Research and Marketing Act.

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From Salt Lake City (Utah) Tribune, Feb. 15 -

MEET HEARS ATTACK ON LAND POLICY; HORSE-CATTLE PARLEY URGED TO BACK PRIVATE OWNERSHIP - "The only solution to public domain is private ownership -- we stockmen do not want to be treated as by-products of the U. S. Forest Service any longer!"

With this assertion, William B. Wright, president, American National Livestock Assn., opened an attack against both the forest service and bureau of land management Friday before some 350 delegates to the Utah Cattle and Horse Growers' Assn.

"We need a reclassification of lands -- we must be recognized as being processors of grass," Mr. Wright continued. "Our groups are tolerated by the forest service, but we can be kicked off because we are not recognized as being basic."

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From St. Paul (Minn.) Dispatch, Feb. 14 -

MARKETING SYSTEM OK'D BY HIGH COURT; DECISION DEFEATS RESTRICTIVE EFFORTS OF PRIVATE TRADE - The Farmers Union Grain Terminal association today won its fight against Minneapolis grain traders for the right of Northwest farmers to handle cooperatively their own grain from farm to mill.

In an unanimous decision, the state supreme court ruled that FUGTA has a legal right to buy for its own account grain shipped to it by its own members for sale.

The decision keeps open the way for the terminal grain cooperative to handle its members' grain as a continuous process, to hold it for periods and to sell at advantageous times.

A contrary decision would have restricted the co-ops to the functions of a commission man.

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From Syracuse (N.Y.) Herald-Journal, Feb. 12 -

DESTRUCTION OF FOOD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE - Editorial - Evidently the United States Department of Agriculture does not intend to rescind its unfortunate order authorizing farmers to dump 20,000,000 bushels of low grade and deteriorating potatoes stored under the Government price-supporting loans.

This strange development takes us back to the days of Henry Wallace and his 6,000,000 little pigs.

It seems to us that there were many ways in which the Federal officials could have disposed of the 20,000,000 bushels without all this obvious waste. For example, the Salvation Army and other organizations dedicated to the important work of helping the down-and-out and the needy undoubtedly could have used substantial quantities of this nourishing food.

It seems paradoxical indeed to observe all of this excellent food being destroyed, just now when many millions of people the world around are finding it almost impossible to scrape up enough food to keep soul and body together.

From Bangor (Me.) News, Feb. 13 -

MORE POTATO-MARKETS - Editorial. - Maine's present potato-problem is a problem of surpluses. For the past few years, the State's potato crop, always on the increase, has been leaping upward like the trick-tree of a Hindu magician — but with one mighty difference. Our potatoes are essentially a rich reality.

In 1945, we grew something close to 54,745,000 bushels. In 1946, the figure expanded to 77,745,000. That now means a staggering carry-over from last year's crop. The supply is, indeed, 5,000 freight-car shipments to the bad.

Result: Heavy waste, inevitable dumping.

There is only one remedy: More marketing.

Maine growers are wise in their latest decision. They are establishing, at Washington, a fully staffed bureau which will both watch such national legislation as affects the existing potato markets and will also serve as an agency to develop those markets and discover new ones.

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From Reno (Nev.) Gazette, Feb. 11 -

PUBLIC LANDS USE TO BE INVESTIGATED - Described by Senator George W. Malone as the "broadest probe" to be launched by any committee set up under the reorganization act, an inquiry into factors affecting the use of minerals, fuels, forestry and reclamation products will be conducted by a subcommittee headed by the Nevada senator.

He is chairman of the new senate public lands subcommittee. The appointment of Senator Malone to the chairmanship was announced in Washington Monday.

Senator Malone said that the committee will make recommendations it deems advisable with respect to reciprocal trade treaties, tariffs and subsidies as they are related to public land resources.

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From Kansas City (Mo.) Star, Feb. 13 -

ASSURING PARITY THE PROBLEM - Editorial - In the opinion of Clifford R. Hope, Kansas representative in Congress who is chairman of the House Agricultural committee, there is now general acceptance by the American people of the principle that the federal government must stabilize farm prices to the extent that farmers never again will suffer from severe deflations like those which followed 1920 and 1929.

Supporting farm prices to the extent of preventing a collapse is not the same as supporting prices continuously above market levels, Hope points out.

It would appear that the future farm program would find little opposition in Congress, assuming that the public subscribes to the principle of price support and that farmers seek only a fair share of the national income.

The trouble is, however, that no authority has yet definitely shown at what level farm prices should be stabilized nor has there been any agreement on a program that would bring such stabilization about. In other words, here is another case of a good idea needing implementation. Since there is no crisis at present confronting farmers, Congress should have the time to seek out the solution.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For February 25, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION  
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From New York Times, Feb. 25 -

TRUMAN AID TO GOP SAVES TRADE PACTS: EXECUTIVE ORDER IS REPORTED DUE ON PATTERN DRAWN BY VÄNDENBERG, MILLIKIN-Washington-President Truman has gone so far in efforts to meet the requests of responsible Republican leadership on the handling of reciprocal trade treaties that there appeared today to be no remaining doubt that he had saved the treaty program for this year at least.

The President will issue this week, it was learned in authoritative quarters, an Executive Order following a pattern suggested by Senators Arthur H. Vandenberg, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and Eugene D. Millikin, chairman of the Finance Committee.

The order has full administration backing, and is reported to have been prepared for the President by William S. Clayton, Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs.

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ASK TEETH IN CODE OF CHILD FARM JOBS: DEWEY'S COMMITTEE ON MIGRANT CAMPS ALSO FOR INCREASED HEALTH, EDUCATION FUNDS-Albany-Cooperation by the Labor Department and State Police in the prosecution of growers who "persistently and flagrantly" defy the law pertaining to the employment of children on farms was recommended today by Governor Dewey's committee on migrant camps.

The inter-departmental committee, in its annual report, said that conditions in farm labor camps continued to improve during the year. Employment of youths under 14 years of age in field work declined from 31 percent in mid July to 19 percent by the end of August.

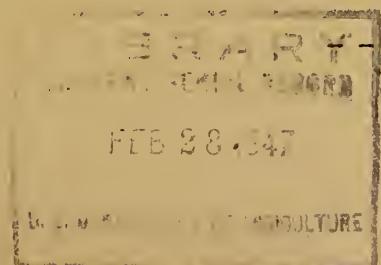
The report recommended additional appropriations for child care, health and educational work in connection with the migrant labor camps.

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ACTS TO AID MILK PRICES: U.S. AUTHORIZES PURCHASE PLAN FOR CHICAGO AREA-Washington-The Agriculture Department acted today to stabilize weakening market prices for nonfat dry milk and to prevent an undue decline in prices dairymen receive for milk sold for manufacturing purposes.

It authorized the Dairy Products Marketing Association of Chicago, a non-profit organization of dairy marketing cooperatives, to buy 5,000,000 pounds of dried milk at prices not in excess of 10 cents a pound for spray process and nine cents for roller process milk.

The association will be authorized to buy additional amounts if necessary to bolster prices, the department indicated.



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From New York Times, Feb. 25 -

U.S. SEIZES SEVEN ON SUGAR CHARGES: CHICAGOANS ALLEGEDLY WORKED IN GANG THAT DIVERTED 5,000,000 POUNDS INTO BLACK MARKET-Chicago-Seven Chicagoans were arrested today on Federal warrants charging them with participating in a gang alleged to be responsible for diverting an estimated 5,000,000 pounds of sugar into the black market.

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From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, Feb. 25 -

RAIL, STEEL MEN TO CONFER TOMORROW TO SOLVE SHORTAGE OF BOX CARS-Washington-Top-flight executives of railroads, steel companies and freight car manufacturing companies will confer here Wednesday on the critical freight car shortage, Senator Reed (Rep. Kan.) announced today.

The group will meet in a closed conference with an Interstate commerce Subcommittee headed by Reed, the chairman of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee.

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From Wall Street Journal, Feb. 25 -

PORK IS PUSHED right off its throne as the "poor man's" meat.-Steak on the hoof is now cheaper than pig-in-the-pen. Hog prices lately have averaged about \$4 per hundred pounds higher than cattle. In prewar 1939 beef was half again as costly as pork.

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DAIRY PRODUCTS price supports prove a thorny problem for the Government.-Yesterday's announcement of a support price for dry milk powder is just a starter. A floor under butter prices probably will follow. So will official action to bolster other dairy products.

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POTATO PLENTITUDE is manifested in ironic twists. With a surplus of 100 million bushels of spuds on hand, the Government has tried to give potatoes away free to hungry foreign lands. But there have been no takers. So tons and tons of tubers are diverted to hog raisers at two cents a hundred pounds. A purple dye (worth more than the potatoes) is placed on these spuds for hogs so they won't later be dumped on the commercial market. In Wisconsin, a key spud producer, potatoes retail at \$2.99 to \$3.25 a hundred pounds,

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DDT LIVESTOCK SPRAY keeps popping into the spotlight as a meat producer. By keeping cattle fly-free, it lets them put on more pounds. One Kansas ranch reports more than a ton of additional beef realized for each pound of DDT used. Others say steers put on more than 1,200 pounds of meat per pound of fly killer. Dairymen too, find freedom from flies keeps per cow milk production high.

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Farm Digest 395-47-2

From New York Times, Feb. 22 -

HOUSE ACTS TO END LIVESTOCK PLAGUE: BACKS MEASURE TO WIPE OUT HOOF-AND-MOUTH DISEASE IN COOPERATION WITH MEXICO-Washington-The House, by a voice vote, unanimously approved today a measure authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with the Mexican Government in the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease.

The measure was motivated by an outbreak of the disease, for the first time on the North American continent since 1929, among Mexican cattle herds last December. It has subsequently spread rapidly in ten other Mexican States. No cases have appeared in the United States and the nearest affected herd is 350 miles from the border.

The bill grants the Secretary of Agriculture authority to reach agreement with Mexico as to details of cooperation between the countries, the amounts to be provided by each country and the means of expending the stipulated funds.

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From Memphis Commercial Appeal, Feb. 16 -

BIG MIDSOUTH FARM PROBLEM IS MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT: BUT IMPROVED LABOR SUPPLY WILL ENABLE MANY TO INCREASE COTTON AND SOYBEAN ACREAGES-An acute shortage of machinery and equipment confronts MidSouth farmers as they start their 1947 crop but an improved labor supply will enable many to increase cotton and soybean acreages 10 to 15 percent.

The machinery and equipment shortage—worse now than during the war—was viewed by county agents yesterday as the farmers' No. 1 problem this year.

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From The Atlanta Constitution, Feb. 20 -

COTTON EXPORT SUBSIDY HALVED-Editorial-The Department of Agriculture has slashed the cotton export subsidy from 4 to 2 cents a pound.

This, because of the great difference in the price of American and foreign cotton, will undoubtedly result in a sharp decrease in our export. And that, in turn, will affect the domestic market.

Four million bales of surplus American cotton has gone overseas during the 30 months since the four-cent subsidy was put into effect. But the flow will dwindle sharply now that it has been halved.

Fortunately, announcement of the subsidy drop was made before plans for the '47 crop were too far along. Many farmers will now want, because of the apparent probability of overproduction, to put their acreage in other crops.

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From San Antonio Express, Texas, Feb. 17 -

A TURNING POINT IN USE OF THIS NATION'S FORESTS-Editorial-Tree farming has spread so rapidly in the 16 states where the movement has taken hold, that the Nation has about reached a turning point in the use of its forests.

The tree farming idea is spreading. By the latest accounting the 16 States had 13 million acres in tree crops, which were being scientifically cultivated according to United States Forest Service standards.

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Farm Digest 395-47-3

From Chicago Journal of Commerce, Feb. 20 -

WHEAT FOR EXPORT-Editorial-The United States has been cordially invited to stand aside from its natural wheat markets and let others take the major share. This invitation, drafted by the International Wheat Board, will be tendered for our signature at the London wheat conference opening on March 18.

Under its terms, commencing Aug. 1, export quotas would be fixed as follows: Canada 40 percent, Argentina 25 percent; Australia 19 percent and the United States 16 percent.

Adherence to such an agreement would, to put it charitably, be an addlepated step on our part. For one thing, although the agreement would become effective in five months' time, there is no indication that current abnormalities in the world food situation will have abated sufficiently by then to admit of an export allocation program based on normality.

Second, the quota figures are the same as those set forth in the 1942 discussion on world wheat allocation. The giant strides made in American wheat production since that time have been ignored.

Third, in operation the agreement would be clumsy.

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From New Orleans Times-Picayune, Feb. 16 -

SAY BAN ON SUGAR EXPORTS HELPFUL-Washington-The proposal by Rep. Reed of New York to prohibit all exportation of sugar from the United States would do more harm than good, in the opinion of sugar experts. It would do great harm to the American refining industry since the United States produces only a third of its own sugar requirements, buyers for other countries would bid away supplies that now are brought into the United States for refining and then exported.

In connection, it is pointed out that exports are still closely controlled, and most of the sugar being sent abroad is being handled by UNRRA. It is known that a small percentage of supplies intended for relief find their way into commercial channels, but this is said to constitute a negligible part of the total.

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From Des Moines Register, Iowa, Feb. 17 -

DOES IT DEPEND ON WHOSE OX IS GORED?-Editorial-The American Soybean association knows the side on which its bread is spread—with margarine, of course. It knows that taxes and other forms of discriminatory legislation directed at margarine hurt soybean producers. So it has frequently advocated lifting restrictions on the sale of margarine.

In pushing for fewer restrictions on the sale of margarine, soybean producers are not only intelligently pursuing their own interest. They are also furthering the general interest of consumers. During the last year however, the soybean association has shown signs of falling into the ancient trap of protectionism in foreign trade—the very thing it has been fighting on the domestic front..

Some leaders in the soybean association evidently have begun to worry about foreign competition from coconut oil, now that the war is over and we can again import oils from the southwest Pacific.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
CAB 2 (For February 26, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From the New York Times, Feb. 26 -

TRUMAN FORTIFIES TRADE PACT "TRUCE"--Washington--President Truman, by executive order, gave substantial effect today to the Vandenberg-Milliken compromise to protect the reciprocal trade agreements program from piecemeal scuttling in Congress and to make "doubly sure that American interests will be safeguarded."

Besides formalizing and making obligatory some procedural practices in trade treaty negotiation, the President's order provided for Tariff Commission review of negotiated concessions to determine whether "serious injury" to domestic producers resulted. After review the commission would make recommendations to the President for modification or withdrawal of concessions.

INDICTED IN SUGAR FRAUD; 25 ARE ACCUSED OF DIVERTING 5 MILLION POUNDS AT CHICAGO--Chicago--The Federal Grand Jury today indicted twenty-five persons in a sugar stamp racket that diverted an estimated 5,000,000 pounds of sugar into the black market.

CHILD FUND FOOD ASKED BY GREECE--Lake Success, N.Y.--The Greek Government will ask the International Children's Emergency Fund to provide supplementary food for its entire child population, it was learned today.

ANOTHER NEW HIGH SET BY HOG PRICES; \$30 A HUNDREDWEIGHT TOP PAID--Chicago--Prices for pork on the hoof ran wild today. Continued good demand, plus the fact that not enough pigs are coming to market these days to meet the supply, forced prices on the hog market here to a new record of \$30 a hundredweight.

TOBACCO SOUTH WORRIED; BRITISH CUT IN FUNDS FOR BUYING HERE HELD FLOW TO AREA--Danville, Va.--Southern flue-cured tobacco growers were dismayed over word from London that the Government has cut \$67,000,000 from funds available for the purchase of American leaf this year.

So seriously disturbed is the Farm Bureau, which is composed largely of planters from Georgia to Virginia, that it has telegraphed to the Secretary of Agriculture in Washington, asking him to re-examine acreage control for a deeper cut in the crop this year than the 4 percent already ordered.

(The New York Times of today carries a two column cut on Page 9, showing a few small potatoes being rationed to a person in London. The caption reads: "Only two pounds to a customer." The cutlines read; "A potato ration goes into a customer's bag in London. In the United States surplus potatoes are being used as fertilizer." The picture is from the New York Times London Bureau.)

From the New York Journal of Commerce, Feb. 26 -

SUGAR CONTROLS - Transfer of sugar controls from OPA to the Department of Agriculture for another year to March 31, 1948, is predicted in sugar circles with the prospect that trading in sugar futures in the New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange will be resumed in June or July of this year.

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Flour - Some large bakers have re-entered the market for flour, with impetus to this demand stimulated by indications of a stepped-up Government export purchase program. Meanwhile, Britain is reported to have paid \$6 a sack for clear flours, and is seeking more. Spot stocks are tightening.

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From the Wall Street Journal, Feb. 26 -

TOO MANY TURKEYS - The poultry world, from California to Vermont and from Oregon to Florida, is troubled with too many turkeys.

The Agriculture Department, which numbers the turkey growers among its "Chillun," is worried, too. Under its price-supporting role, its aim is to see that poultrymen get good money for their birds. And the prospect is that keeping turkey prices up in 1947 will be about as easy as supporting snowball prices in the Yukon.

The tale of the turkey is one of progress -- too much progress. Since 1929 the nation's poultrymen have steadily accelerated their growing of the great American bird. And in the last three years they've really opened up the turkey factory throttles.

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POTATOES, TOMATOES ON NORTHERN FARMS FACE BLIGHT THREAT - Tomato and potato crops in northern truck gardens are threatened with the worst attack of "blight" they have yet seen, judged by the experience of Florida growers last month.

Blight, a fungus disease, has been a bane to potato growers for about five years. Last year it attacked tomatoes and caused \$50 million damage. In January, damp weather in Florida brought an attack of the disease worse than a year ago.

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From the New York Herald Tribune, Feb. 26 -

SPECIAL SENATE BODY GETS PLAN TO FENCE OFF MEXICO--Washington--UP--The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today referred to a special subcommittee the long-considered project for a ten-foot fence on the Mexican-United States border.

The project was started in 1938. Present legislation would authorize a \$4,000,000 expenditure.

The committee chairman, Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, Republican, of Michigan, said that opposition to the project had been registered by the Rio Grande Farm Bureau Federation. The Federation, he said, complained that the fence would provide no protection against the spread of hoof-and-mouth cattle disease. Birds, rodents and floods, the Federation contends, carry the disease as well as cattle.

Senator Vandenberg pointed out that the projected expenditure was the first "outside the President's 1948 budget," but said that the Budget Bureau has reported the project in accord with Mr. Turman's program.

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From Minneapolis (Minn.) Star Journal, Feb. 18 -

BAKERS FEAR INCREASE IN BREAD PRICE - Minneapolis bakers, watching the skyrocketing wheat market which sent the May bread grain future to a 27-year-high, feared today that advancing flour prices would force a boost in bread prices.

The advancing prices brought a scramble from mills for wheat to fill demands for flour from bakers and government buying agencies.

With flour advancing also, there was some speculation among bakers that bread prices might have to be advanced to meet the higher costs. Mills boosted bakers' flour prices overnight by 10 to 20 cents a 100 pounds.

One spokesman for a large wholesale bakery said the baking industry hadn't as yet discussed a price raise for bread. Present selling prices are 13 to 14 cents for pound loaves and 16 cents for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  pound loaves.

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From Columbia (S.C.) State, Feb. 20 -

HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE - Editorial - There is great concern among cattle raisers, particularly in the West which is nearer the center of infection, over the prevalence of hoof and mouth disease in Mexico.

And this is important to us here in South Carolina, too, where cattle raising is on the up and up. Our word is that congressmen are receiving much mail on the subject urging very strict quarantine regulations as to cattle from Mexico entering this country.

Typical of the mail is a resolution submitted by the Nebraska Stock Growers association and read into the Congressional Record by Senator Hugh Butler (R-Nebr.). The stock growers want more funds appropriated to the Bureau of Animal Industry with which to combat the disease; patrolling of the Mexican border "as if it were a prison camp"; construction of a permanent border fence; and negotiation of a new sanitary treaty between the United States and Mexico which will have "strong and sharp teeth in it."

The time to halt the spread of this devastating malady is before it gains headway in the states, and that time is now.

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From Philadelphia (Pa.) Inquirer, Feb. 24 -

IS SUGAR DEAL FAIR TO U.S.? - Editorial - Sugar allotments for this country worked out by the International Food Council and accepted by our Government are supposed to permit an increase of sugar rations to individuals from 25 to 35 pounds this year.

There should be no slip up on this. The American housewife has struggled for a long time on short sugar allowances. A Congressional committee which has been investigating this subject demanded earlier this month that the United States act to insure 10 to 15 pounds more in the rationing arrangements.

By the deal just made the lower provision appears to be possible.

The arrangements accepted in the sugar distribution plan are considerably below those demanded in Congressional circles. They may be the best obtainable. Or they may not. A further House inquiry into that aspect of the matter is in order. Americans don't want more than their fair share of sugar. But they're entitled to know that other countries aren't grabbing more than is justly due them.

From Greenville (S.C.) News, Feb. 20 -

NOBODY WANTS POTATOES - Editorial - Under its price support program the government acquired a large portion of last year's 95,000,000-bushel surplus potato crop at a cost of about \$2.20 a hundred pounds.

Faced with a possible complete loss of some 20,000,000 bushels, the government has been trying to dispose of them at what amounts to give-away prices.

First it offered them to foreign governments and relief agencies at four cents a hundred pounds for relief feeding. Meeting with little success with these, the government next turned to commercial exporters and offered them potatoes at five cents a hundred, around \$2.15 less than its investment.

It remains to be seen what success will attend this latest offer. But out of it all comes a few pointers on what to do with surplus potatoes. Nobody seems to want them, not even those who are charged with the responsibility of feeding the hungry war victims, so the thing to do with them is not go grow them — at least not under circumstances under which the 1946 crop was produced.

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St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch, Feb. 19 -

POTATOES AND PEOPLE - Editorial - Life Magazine publishes a picture which ought to shock and humiliate the American people. It is a photograph of acres of potatoes, spread out a foot thick, in a field near Grand Forks, S.D., while a six-wheel truck dumps another load on the frozen ground. They are part of 20,000,000 bushels which the AAA is plowing under to maintain the "parity" price of potatoes. Actually, the surplus is much larger than this, so that the Department of Agriculture is offering potatoes for export at the amazing price of 5 cents a hundred pounds.

Meantime in various parts of the world several hundred million people, mostly those of our late Allies, are suffering from Malnutrition or starvation.

The Department of Agriculture says that transportation costs are too high for the potatoes to be sent abroad and that ships were not available. That brings up another picture Life ran several months ago, a remarkable photograph of several miles of decommissioned Liberty and Victory ships tied up in an arm of Mobile Bay. Of 6000 war transports declared surplus by the Maritime Commission, only a few hundred have been sold.

We would like for the Department of Agriculture, AAA division, to meet the Maritime Commission. Perhaps the introduction could be arranged by the State Department, which should have a certain interest in avoiding foreign propaganda about a nation that destroys millions of tons of food while millions of people are starving.

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From Lynchburg (Va.) News, Feb. 17 -

SOIL CONSERVATION - Editorial - In an address delivered before the Soil Conservation Society of America in Chicago in 1946, President H. C. Byrd of the University of Maryland covered thoroughly and vividly not only the necessity of soil conservation but what it means and how it can be conserved. This was part of a program that is increasing in scope in this country but as yet too little known and understood. The average citizen is likely to think that it only means prevention of soil erosion, but that is only part of the conservation.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For Feb. 27, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION  
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, Feb. 27 -

SUGAR INCREASED TO 10-POUND RATION: GOVERNMENT FIXES 2 QUARTERS' HOME ALLOTMENT—MORE ALLOWED INDUSTRY—Washington—A substantial increase in sugar rations for both home and industrial users was authorized jointly today by the Office of Price Administration and Department of Agriculture.

By promising a ten pound ration each for the second and third quarters, beginning April 1 and July 1, the OPA increased the domestic allotment for the first nine months of the year to twenty five pounds, equal to the ration for all of 1946. It was unofficially predicted that a fourth quarter ration of another ten pounds would be allowed, making the year's total ten pounds more than the 1946 allotment.

Larger quantities of sugar will be allowed also hotels, restaurants and makers of candy, soft drinks, baked goods and condensed milk.

The increased rations are made possible by the recent decision of the International Emergency Food Council which recommended that the 1947 United States allocation from the world sugar supply be increased from the 1946 figure of 5,597,000 tons to 6,800,000.

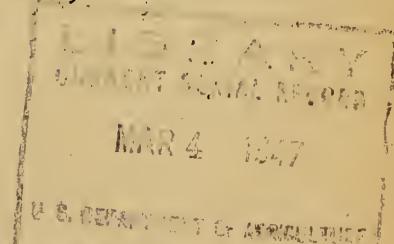
RAIL CAR SHORTAGE STUDIED BY SENATE—Washington—R. V. Fletcher, president of the American Association of Railroads, told a closed meeting of a subcommittee of the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee today that railroads were in dire need of freight cars but that it was impossible at this time to estimate how many they would purchase this year.

At the meeting, an unprecedented conference, were high Government officials, representatives of seventeen railroads, ten steel companies, six railroad purchasing agents, twelve manufacturers of railroad cars and seven refrigerator car companies, several colleagues of Mr. Fletcher in the AAR and members of the subcommittee.

The conference was called by Senator Clyde M. Reed, Republican, of Kansas, who described the shortage of freight cars as "the most important critical thing facing the country today".

By an agreement between the steel and railroad car industries, proposed by the Civilian Production Administration, 165,000 tons of steel will be allotted each month for the production of freight cars. To get the 125,000 cars estimated to be needed by railroads, however, about 383,000 tons would be needed, Mr. Fletcher said.

(Turn to page 2 for other items  
in today's NY Times.)



Farm Digest 385-47

From New York Times, Feb. 27 -

URGES TARIFF CUT FOR WOOLEN GOODS: EXCHANGE CORP. BRIEF DENIES DOMESTIC INDUSTRY HAS SUFFERED FROM IMPORTS-The domestic wool industry was challenged today to show any injury from imported goods in a brief filed yesterday with the Committee for Reciprocity Information in Washington. America's reciprocal trade agreements program was strongly supported and further reductions in tariffs as permitted by law were urged.

The memorandum, prepared by M. H. Blinken, president, Exchange Trading Corporation, showed that imports of woolen and worsted cloth have never amounted to more than 2 percent of domestic production, that practically all of the imported fabrics are in the higher price ranges which do not compete with the bulk of American cloth, and that America has never produced enough apparel wool to meet domestic needs.

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QUOTA, PRICE PACTS UNDER ITO OPPOSED: COTTON INTERESTS LODGE PROTESTS-Washington-Representatives of two large groups of American producers of commodities, cotton and petroleum, registered today strong objection to projected establishment of production quotas and price agreements under the International Trade Organization, at hearings on the provisional charter for ITO.

These witnesses, who bespoke the fear that American producers would be placed in an unfavorable world position, ranged their arguments against those of a long list of organization spokesmen backing the ITO and the proposed reciprocal trade treaties to be administered under ITO, in appearances before a panel of the State Department's executive committee on economic foreign policy.

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From NY Journal of Commerce, Feb. 27 -

CCC WOOL STOCKS 400,000,000 POUNDS-Washington-The Senate Agriculture Committee today bumped up against a 400,000,000 pound wool stockpile amassed by the Commodity Credit Corp. at a cost of \$225,000,000. The question before the committee was what to do about it.

The figures came from Norris E. Dodd, Undersecretary of Agriculture who said the CCC has notified Congress it will discontinue world purchases after April 15 unless Congress says it must proceed.

Senator Thye (Rep. Minn.) noting that CCC inventories were amounting in the face of increased imports of wool, asked whether "we are being outdone in the import and export markets by foreigners."

Dodd said the department had supported the O'Mahoney bill which failed in the last session. This would have limited imports under a quota system until the stockpile is consumed.

"What is the ultimate end?" Thye asked.

Dodd replied it might be necessary to begin selling wool below parity and "Take our losses." Senator Lucas (Dem. Ill.) expressed concern that this would drive down the price of wool. None of the committeemen advanced a solution, but Thye said the problem "must be examined now."

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From St. Paul Pioneer Press, Feb. 21 -

TWO MEN OF THE UNITED NATIONS - Editorial - The selection of Byron Price as an assistant secretary-general is a good augury for the future of the United Nations. Price has demonstrated remarkably good judgment and a rare ability to understand and handle difficult situations both as wartime chief of censorship and his earlier work with the Associated Press.

But while the excellent selection of Price is being applauded, it is a good time also to recognize the real quality of the service and devotion to duty of his predecessor in the position, John B. Hutson. That office has charge of United Nations administrative and financial services. Hutson, former under secretary of agriculture and a distinguished career man in government, handled it through the extremely difficult pioneering period of the United Nations organization.

Hutson had to build the financial and administrative foundations of the new United Nations organization, a big job of itself. In addition, he had to cope with great complications, due to international politics and inter-government jealousies that were always at work. Finally, he had to do the job not with American sub-executives whose methods and personalities were well known to him but largely with aides selected from other nations, so that delicate problems of foreign tempers were super-imposed on all the rest.

In the circumstances, it is not strange that in spite of all of Mr. Hutson's great skill and patience and ingenuity in fashioning compromises of complex issues, his work did not suit everybody and that he resigned. But it should be noted that he did an almost impossible job with a degree of success that was far beyond the capacities of any ordinary man, and that as a result he now can hand over to his successor an opportunity for history-making progress.

Let it not be overlooked that Trygve Lie and his new assistant, Bryon Price, will continue to be up against administrative and organization problems that are complex beyond the ken of most of us. It is not fair to expect superhuman things from the mortals who are grappling with the historic job of building the UNO. Their imperfections should not be magnified, and their successes should be given the honor and gratitude that is their just due.

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Albuquerque (N.M.) Journal, Feb. 15 -

PROTECT U. S. LIVESTOCK - Editorial - New Mexico stands to suffer as much or more than any border state should the hoof and mouth epidemic in Mexico spread to U. S. livestock. Naturally the reports from Washington that an economy-minded Congress will be asked to expend unestimated millions of dollars in co-operating with Mexico to control the deadliest animal disease known to veterinary science are received with gratification.

The Senate Agricultural Committee already has had introduced a resolution asking that the Agriculture Department, which is headed by New Mexico's Clinton P. Anderson, be given a free hand in spending whatever sums might be required to eradicate the Mexican outbreak.

Cattlemen in this country for years have fought the lifting of quarantine against South American countries, particularly Argentina, and been accused often-times of raising false "scarecs" to protect their industry against importation of beef from those countries. Their foresight has been proven, however. Mexico did lift its barriers to permit the importation of some Brazilian livestock, and that is where it made a fatal mistake, as that was responsible for the spread of the disease there.

From Dallas (Texas) News, Feb. 20 -

STATE QUARANTINE ISSUED - Fort Worth, Texas, (AP) - A quarantine on live-stock, poultry and livestock products from Mexico was clamped on the border Wednesday by the Texas Livestock Sanitary Commission as an added safeguard against the spread of foot and mouth disease from Mexico.

The state embargo virtually duplicates the federal quarantine already in effect, but provides stiffer penalties for violators, including a fine of from \$500 to \$5,000 or a jail sentence of up to six months or both for first offenders, and a prison sentence of not less than two and not more than five years and a fine of up to \$10,000 for a second violation.

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From Philadelphia (Pa.) Inquirer, Feb. 22 -

MEAT PRICE RISE FACES 'REBELLION' - A boom in the price of beef and pork, which livestock men predict in about two weeks, will be met with "rebellion" by Philadelphia housewives, it was forecast yesterday by spokesmen for the trade.

The livestock men, who said the price increase in pork, which developed yesterday, would last for about three months, attributed it to the small pig crop. Shipments from the farms, they said, have been tapering off gradually, and hog prices spiraled to record levels yesterday.

George A. Casby, president of John J. Felin & Co., 4142 Germantown Ave., one of the largest pork packers in the East, declared that prices are high enough, and if pork goes too high, the public will rebel. "And I rather think there will be a strong backing of such a rebellion," he added.

"Prices are unreasonable," asserted John C. Deinderfer, executive secretary of the Philadelphia Retail Meat Dealers Association, "and we're getting into the same situation as at the time OPA controls were lifted."

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce Feb. 22 -

BANKER SEEKS MOVE TO SAVE ILLINOIS SOIL; DAVIS URGES POOLING OF RESOURCES BY ALL AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS - Formation of a new organization to sponsor aggressively a program of soil conservation on farms throughout Illinois was advocated yesterday by Chester C. Davis, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

Mr. Davis made his recommendation at the mid-Winter conference of Illinois Bankers' Association. Under the banker's recommendation, federal and state conservation departments, the college of agriculture of the University of Illinois, farm bureau federations, farm implement manufacturers, commercial fertilizer interests, and bankers would be called upon to pool their resources to foster a state-wide program calling for definite action.

Discussion of soil conservation was opened by an address by Dr. H. H. Bennett, chief of the soil conservation service of the Department of Agriculture. He asserted that 500,000 acres of farm land soil in the United States are being lost annually through erosion. American agriculture can not continue to absorb these losses without going out of business through soil bankruptcy, he said.

Reserve

DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST  
(For Feb. 28, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION  
Washington 25, D.C.

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File No. 1341

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, Feb. 28 -

HOOVER URGES \$475,500,000 TO PUT GERMANY ON FEET-Washington-Herbert Hoover warned in a report to President Truman today that survival of Western civilization in Europe depended on its survival in a chaotic Germany. He outlined a plan for Germany's rehabilitation designed to protect American taxpayers against footing the cost of the undertaking.

For substance, Mr. Hoover proposed an immediate improvement in the food supply to the German people in the British-American zone to put them in working condition so that they could produce for export and use the proceeds to sustain themselves instead of remaining a charitable charge on the family of nations.

Briefly but with a touch of eloquence, Mr. Hoover described statistically the awful plight of the vanquished people who, in such essentials as food, warmth and shelter, "have sunk to the lowest level known in a hundred years of Western history."

While he recommended United States expenditures totaling \$475,500,000 through fiscal 1948 for food, seed, fertilizer and petroleum products, the amount was less than anticipated by occupation authorities and the former President suggested steps that might save \$150,000,000 of the total to British and American taxpayers.

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300,000 TONS OF POTATOES IN SIGHT FOR GERMANY AT HOOVER'S URGING-Washington-A strong possibility that the Army may transport up to 10,000,000 bushels of U.S. surplus potatoes to Germany as a result of the Hoover mission was disclosed today by the Department of Agriculture.

The Hoover report stated that because of spoilage in the unusually severe winter in the British American zone, there were now not enough potatoes by 400,000 tons to cover a 1,550 calorie ration until the next harvest. The 10,000,000 bushels referred to above is the equivalent of 300,000 tons. The report also states that from 200,000 to 250,000 tons of good seed potatoes were needed.

The government owned United States potato surplus, purchased to support prices as is mandatory under the Steagall Act, had been offered again and again to all relief agencies and foreign governments. Purchases totaled \$100,000,000 and Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture, said there would be as many as 20,000,000 bushels for which no purpose could be found.

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AMENDMENTS PROPOSED WHEN EXTENDING CCC LAW-AP-Washington-A series of amendments to the Commodity Credit Corporation law was proposed today to the Senate Agricultural Committee which is considering legislation to extend the agency two years to June 30, 1949. The National Grain Trade Council asked that Congress at least direct the corporation to "utilize the established trade facilities and service in the conduct of its operations, so far as it is possible." Ralph J. Keltie, director of the Boston Wool Trade Association proposed an amendment giving the CCC authority to sell its huge wool stockpile at competitive prices and through regular merchandising channels, J. B. Wilson of the National Wool Growers Association urged continuance of the present wool buying policy. The American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Grange spoke out for continuance of the CCC.

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Farm Digest 415-47

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, Feb. 28 -

U.S. WEIGHS WITHDRAWAL OF COTTON EXPRT SUBSIDY-Washington-The Government soon may withdraw the remaining 2c a pound export subsidy on cotton in a move to stabilize prices.

Agriculture Department officials said such action has been under consideration.

Reflecting short supplies of many grades of cotton and heavy domestic and export demand, cotton prices have advanced more than 3c a pound since last October's sharp price break.

FAVOR SUGAR CONTROLS-State, Agriculture and OPA officials testified before a Senate banking subcommittee against end of sugar controls. The State official said that termination of controls would affect our foreign relations. The subcommittee is considering a shift of controls to the D. and A. and continuation of controls until Oct. 15, when the Secretary of Agriculture must justify further extension.

From The Wall Street Journal, Feb. 28 -

GOVERNMENT SETS UP "TASK GROUP" TO CHANNEL STEEL FOR FREIGHT CARS: AIM AT PRODUCTION OF 10,000 MONTHLY-Washington-Government officials are organizing a task committee to allocate steel among freight car manufacturers in order to boost production to 10,000 a month by midsummer.

Their action follows Wednesday's conference of car manufacturers, railroad officials, steel executives and Government agencies, called by Senator Reed (R. Kans.).

TARIFF SKIRMISH WITH CONGRESS ONLY OPENS THE ADMINISTRATION'S 'FREE TRADE' BATTLE.-Truman's compromise on duty cutting silenced Congress temporarily: but the State Department faces new obstacles in its long range drive to level world trade barriers.

The proposed International Trade Organization, scheduled to be set up at Geneva April 10, will run up against the realities of controlled national economies.

Most nations particularly England, can't relinquish import export regulations without jettisoning internal controls. Many aren't even prepared for tariff cutting talks at Geneva. But the U.S. called the parley and insists it go on. This is State's last big tariff fling. Congress next year will break the diplomats' monopoly on foreign trade planning.

MINOR MEMO-Rising wheat prices caught BAF with its charts down; the Bureau had to add a top sheet to carry the upswing to \$2.36 a bushel.

From Spokane (Wash.) Spokesman-Review - Feb. 16 -

FIGHT ON SUGAR WON BY WOMEN - Washington - American housewives, because of the pressure they brought to bear on congress, and because the State Department has at last shown signs of weakening, will be able to count on substantially more sugar during 1947 than they were allowed last year.

Not in years has a campaign, engineered entirely by the people, brought such quick results as the protest that arose among the women of the country when OPA showed signs of drastically restricting the per capita quota of sugar for the current year. It was an unorganized campaign, but the idea spread like wildfire, and more letters about sugar have been pouring into the offices of senators and congressmen than on any other subject in which the public is interested.

Up until recently the state department was a stumbling block in the path of those who were seeking an increase in the sugar allowance for home consumption. That department all along had shown far more concern about getting sugar from foreign lands than for the people of the United States.

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From Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune, Feb. 22 -

FREE MARKET THREAT SEEN - Minneapolis Grain exchange directors Friday expressed concern for the future of "a free and open competitive market" as a result of the recent state supreme court decision upholding the right of a co-operative association to buy grain for its own account.

The Feb. 14 decision, substantiating District Judge Kenneth G. Brill of Ramsey county, nullified an order of the state railroad and warehouse commission directing Farmers Union Grain Terminal association to "cease and desist" the practice of acting both as principal and agent in grain transactions.

In its statement, the exchange directors asserted the decision "may well prove damaging to the interests of producers of grain in the Northwest."

"A free and open competitive market is essential to a free people," the statement continued.

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From Oklahoma City Oklahoman, Feb. 21 -

U. S. SLIDE FROM BUTTER STANDARD DESCRIBED - M. G. Van Buskirk, executive secretary of the Illinois Dairy Products Association, Chicago, revealed that 30 percent of the prewar butter eaters have slid off the gold standard.

Some of this group, members of the institute suspect, have "switched to cleo," which they say can be produced at about half the cost.

The rest learned during war rationing to get along without it.

Oleo producers, the dairymen declare, are hitting below the bread basket. They now have the privilege of adding artificial butter flavor to their product and furthermore have greatly improved its quality.

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From Youngstown (Ohio) Vindicator, Feb. 20 -

PORK SHORTAGE NOTED - Youngstown housewives were faced today with a growing shortage of pork. Pork loin was advanced in price from 47 to 59 cents a pound in the past month. Pork chops in some markets are up an additional 10 cents a pound.

While beef remains plentiful and its cost stationary, the supply of veal makes it a luxury item at 71 cents a pound. Four weeks ago the consumer could buy a veal roast for 53 cents.

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From Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal, Feb. 19 -

HURTFUL SLASHING - Editorial - Republican leaders in Congress, hunting for any means of making good on campaign promises of economy in Government, are displaying a lot more energy than wisdom in numerous instances.

Their proposals for slashing appropriations for the Department of Agriculture appear to have been made up without thought or study. Representative Whitten of Mississippi charges that G. O. P. figures for cutting school lunches, farm research and rural electrification were arrived at with no regard for facts. It appears to us he is right.

Many of the undertakings the Republicans propose to destroy or cripple fall in the category of Government investment as opposed to spending as such. This is strikingly true in the case of the Rural Electrification Administration. These REA funds are loaned to the rural people of the Nation, and they are current in their payments.

To handicap the REA will be bad for country folks all over, and it will hit Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas especially hard. Though these three states are in the TVA zone, they all lag far behind the parade in the electrification of farms.

Assumably the Republicans will claim that they are favoring private enterprise in hacking away at the REA. The fact is, however, that private enterprise has no enviable record in rural electrification. It did a sorry job in many cases, and the limited competition of REA has already helped arouse it to get busy. It still needs that spur.

Representative Whitten proposes to fight these unjust and impractical plans for crippling farm projects. He should be joined by every member of Congress from the farm sections, regardless of party.

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From Boston (Mass.) Herald, Feb. 22 -

FAMILY FARMS - Editorial - The conclusion of the recently-published report by the Senate Small Business Committee that family-type farms result in a better and stronger community is in line with the thinking of many rural economists and sociologists. The family farm not only contributes more in terms of production but it builds a more stable unit of government and offers more advantages to the citizens of the town. Recent items in the news give support to the belief that the family will more than hold its own in the years ahead.

The farm implement manufacturers are building tractors of a size to fit the requirements of one-family farms. Now a new line of 10 and 12 horsepower machines is on the way, constructed for smaller farms. Smaller combines, corn-pickers and hay-balers will help solve the labor problems for the man who previously has needed extra help only in rush seasons.

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From San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 20 -

SUGAR CONTROL - Editorial - The House should reconsider its action regarding OPA, which the agency says would have the effect of liquidating it, and should provide modestly sufficient funds to assure OPA maintenance of rent and sugar control for the remainder of the year.

It may be true, as Representative Taber says, that OPA "has more generals than privates," But this condition, while deplorable if true, should not be treated by working a hardship upon the public, as would be the obvious effect of abrupt removal of controls; that hardship would attend removal of sugar controls is the prediction of the sugar industry itself.

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